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The Highlands Communicator

Dec 6 - 18, 2007

Haliburton County's Good News Fun Free Newspaper

Vol. 7 Issue 4

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New "Hard News" Local County Wide Newspaper Coming

The Highlands Communicator is proud to announce the birth of their new "hard news" community newspaper which will cover the full spectrum of news and events in Haliburton County: politics, sports, culture, business, development, recreation, cottagers' issues, schools, courts and the police, and of course, you the people.

The new paper will be called "The County Voice" – one paper covering all of Haliburton County. The Highlands Communicator will continue to be Haliburton's pre-eminent pre-promote and feature style magazine that you receive in your mailboxes and on newsstands every two weeks. This will not change.

The new County Voice will cover a completely different spectrum of news than The Communicator - example: council news, police reports, event coverage, etc...

As we assemble our staff, it will be a top priority of The County Voice to provide employment opportunities for Haliburtonians wherever possible.

To begin with, the Communicator is delighted to announce that Stephen Patrick, a long-time contributor to the Communicator, will be the first Editor of The County Voice.

We take this roll seriously and we are all committed to producing a product that everyone can be proud of. We promise to cover the issues in a fair and equal manner – to deliver the local news that matters to all our communities. We believe that The County Voice, one newspaper covering the entire County, will be an effective and important unifying force for all our residents, permanent and seasonal.

The County Voice staff is going into this endeavour with tons of enthusiasm and excitement, and we are all dedicated to producing a product with a local, hometown feel – and we're asking everyone to help out. We would love to hear from you if you have any stories, letters to the editor, event news etc., and we look forward to seeing you at the events we will be covering. Keep us informed and we'll keep the county informed !!!

Finally, we'd like to thank everyone who so far has offered their support and best wishes for our new community newspaper. The support of our readers and advertisers will determine the success of The County Voice – and we promise not to let you down.

Our goal is to provide everyone with a first class, informative and captivating newspaper – produced by and for the people of Haliburton County.

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OPP Festive Season Ride Program Underway

The Ontario Provincial Police Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) festive season program begins at midnight and runs through January 2, 2008.

Impaired driving remains the leading criminal cause of death in Canada. OPP officers will be out in full force across the province in an effort to remove the threat of the impaired drivers and reduce the death toll on Ontario roads.

"The OPP conducts RIDE checks throughout the year," Commissioner Julian Fantino said, "but we increase the number of officers on duty and the number of locations we monitor at this time of year. So far this year, 74 people have died in crashes where alcohol was a factor."

"That's an increase of 25 per cent over the same period last year," Fantino added. "Motorists have to understand that it's not acceptable to drink and drive. The OPP will be out there on highways we patrol every day and we will have a zero tolerance policy toward anyone we stop who has been drinking."

Last year, during the five-week OPP Festive RIDE Initiative, officers stopped 814,536 vehicles at roadside checkpoints, 339 persons were charged with Criminal Code alcohol-related offences and a total of 802 12-hour license suspensions were issued. Officers also issued 365 90-day Administrative driver's license suspensions. Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment charged 40 people with alcohol related driving offences in 2006.

The RIDE program has proved to be an effective deterrent and important tool to educate the driving public about the dangers of impaired driving."

Officers will also be on the lookout for aggressive drivers, those speeding and for people not using seatbelts.

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Ninth Annual Highlands Wind Symphony Christmas Concert

December 17 at 7:30 pm
Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion,
Haliburton



The Highlands Wind Symphony performs its 9th annual Christmas Concert on Monday, December 17th in the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, Haliburton.

Under musical directors Glen Carter and Lori Reddering, the Symphony will be performing great band

arrangements of Christmas music as well as selections of the Broadway composer Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The Highlands Swing Band also is featured playing some terrific swing charts of Christmas favourites, including "Sleigh Ride" and an up-tempo version of Tchaikowsky's Nutcracker called "Nutcracker Rock".

Joining the band this year is Canadian Soprano Soloist Cicela Mansson. Cicela was born in Sweden, grew up in Canada and now lives in Bobcaygeon where she follows a solo career singing classical, jazz and folk styles. She studied classical voice at McGill University and now also acts as assistant conductor of the Trillium Youth Choir. Cicela will sing a number of Christmas pieces for us.

Tickets for this wonderful concert are available at Masters Bookstore, Haliburton and Pharmasave Drugstore, Minden. Adults \$10, Students \$5, and Family Rate \$20. For more information call 457-1671 or email: wildwoodfarm@sympatico.ca.

It's "Clear" What Bags You'll Need in 2008



Council for the Township of Minden Hills wishes to extend a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to its residents, and remind everyone that effective January 1st, 2008, the Township will be implementing "mandatory clear bags" at all of its landfill sites.

Council, at its April 26th Council meeting, passed a resolution for a mandatory recycling by-law, which came into effect on August 1st, 2007. Included in that resolution, Council passed mandatory clear bags to be implemented November 1st, 2007. Subsequently, Council agreed to wait and join other municipalities in implementing mandatory clear bags at all of its landfill sites, effective January 1st, 2008.

For a list of all recycling materials, information can be obtained from the Township of Minden Hills Administration Office, the landfill sites and on its new website www.mindenhills.ca under "What's New". Thank you to all of our residents for assisting us in reaching a 50% diversion rate in 2008!

For more information, you may contact Robert Romberg, Environmental and Property Operations Manager, 286 1260 ext 216.



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Now Taking Job Applications

The Communicator and The County Voice is now accepting applications for various positions that will be required (some immediately and some within a month or two as additional staff is required and as the busy season approaches.)

*Advertising Sales / Customer Service Reps
Full Time Reporter / Photographer
Graphic Design / Layout (advanced)
Distribution / Circulation*

Note: In these departments - some management positions will be developed for those who possess the required skills in management.

Applications for other positions will be accepted for future consideration.. ie: office admin, etc...

Email resumes to:

joanne@thehighlandscommunicator.com

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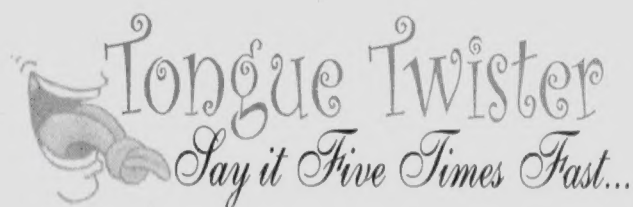
Santa Claus Is Coming To Wilberforce!

Get ready kids ... Santa Claus is coming to Wilberforce on Sunday, December 9th.

The Wilberforce Fire Department is sponsoring the annual Santa Claus parade this year... an event guaranteed to get everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Organizers from "The Loop Christmas Party" will be lining up floats at 12:15 pm on Holmes Drive. The parade will proceed past the school through town to the Lloyd Watson Centre, where children will have the opportunity to visit with Santa and have their photo taken with the Jolly Old Guy.

Anyone wishing to add a float to the parade or be a walker is welcome. For more information contact Joanne Hughey at 448-2194.



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Cordell Carpet

by Terrance Gavan

Spotlight

On Business

Cordell Carpet Interiors Thriving after Three Decades

Brad Sales found his niche in the latter part of the 70's after a de rigueur stint cranking out term papers and exploring options at university.

A confluence of seemingly innocuous events conspired to jiggle his passage from erstwhile philosophy and humanities scholar into the headwaters of private-enterprise.

Sales, owner of Cordell Carpet Interiors here in Haliburton, credits long time Highland's resident, Ty Irwin with kick-starting his jump into the always interesting milieu of small town business life in the Haliburton Highlands.

"My background was, really, in the arts, having attended Scarborough College at the U of T (University of Toronto)," says Sales.

"I took a lot of courses in humanities, like philosophy and religion and psychology, but after I left College I decided that I wanted to do something manual," says Sales.

"I got a job with Stradwick's in Peterborough, installing floor coverings and a lot of times they sent us up north, so I got to know this area a little."

And what he saw he liked. And he also discovered that he liked working in the always challenging milieu of the home decorating business.

"Ty Irwin suggested that I start up a business... because I had done some work for him. And because he liked the work I had done, he suggested that I rent a premises that he was renovating here in Haliburton," says Sales.

As it happens, the storefront on Highland Street where Kitchens' Etcetera is now located, was being retrofitted by Ty Irwin and Curry

Bishop after a fire. Irwin's suggestion provided Sales with the impetus to look into financing.

At the time his parents also owned a cottage in the area.

Sometimes it's wise to let circumstance, opportunity and momentum run their course.

In 1976 Sales followed that karmic trinity to the doors of his new business and a venture which has kept him happy, secure and successfully ensconced here in Cottage Country over three decades.

Call it a foray into the world of neuro-synaptic feng shui. Right placement... right time.

And although Sales main expertise was in floor coverings, he was also intrigued by the whole realm of the home decor business and all of its attendant possibilities.

"We started as a full service decorating center right from the beginning," says Sales.

"We had wallpaper, ceramic tile, custom drapery, as well as a full line of floor coverings," he adds.

"Over the years things changed in the community, but we remained focused on what we felt we did best... being a full service decorating center, catering to contractors, cottagers and local homeowners, and over the years I found that I really liked the business and the challenges involved."

Sales stayed in the Kitchens Etcetera location for three years before moving over to the current Cozy Corner location.

"We were there for 10 years and then moved over to where Sharpley's (Source for Sports) is located now, and we were there for about 12 years or so," says Sales.



Cordell Carpet cont'd... pg. 7...

The Highlands Communicator

Haliburton County's Good News Fun Free Newspaper

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The 3 Amigos

Publisher, Sales Manager, Design, etc.: Brett Irvine

Publisher, Editor, Graphic Design, etc.: Joanne Irvine

Friendly Voice on Phone, Office Assistant: Alice Vanbeek

The 'Write' Gang ...

Freelance Reporters George Farrell, Lea Harper, Terrance Gavan

Regular Columnists: Donald Lange; Brenda Peddigrew; Marci Mandel; Lynne Kilby, Max Haines

Forever in our Hearts...
Roberta Welsh - Feb 12/06
Chuck Irvine - Jan 3/02

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All Our Advertisers,
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Home Décor Store Remains Fixture in The County

...from pg. 6

MOVE TO BEER STORE PLAZA FORTUITOUS

"We were a little apprehensive at first... because when we first moved here we felt it wasn't in a large traffic area," says Sales. As it turns out, all the worry and trepidation went for naught.

"Since we made the move, a lot of customers have come to us and said that they were pleased we had made the move," says Sales. "The parking situation is much better than it was in downtown Haliburton. People who are coming to pick up paint... they want a location that allows them to park close to the store and this new location offers that."

And of course with the growth of Haliburton and summer gridlock, it appears that movement to the outskirts will eventually be mandated by the sheer weight of numbers.

For Sales, it's all a part of rolling with the flow, something he's learned to do over the past 30 years.

"We received a lot of support when we moved and there was a lot of relief on our part, because at first we thought it was a gamble," says Sales. "The fears were groundless and it turned out to be an excellent move... in fact it's a move that we should have probably made years ago."

He says that the new premises has about 2000 square feet, whereas their old location occupied about 5000 square feet.

That does not cause as many problems as one might imagine, precisely because of the changing nature of the decorating business.

"We used to stock a full line of carpeting and now we don't," says Sales. He adds that given the huge selection of carpets and floor coverings on the market today, it remains almost impossible to stock it all. And with the rise in technology and delivery systems, it's just as easy to order as it is to stock.

And when one figures in the cost of frontage, staying small allows Cordell's to pass warehousing cost savings on to their customers.

"We found that over the years, people are accessing more info, through magazines or over the Internet... a store can't possibly stock a full selection of all available floor coverings," says Sales.

And so, Cordell's is now concentrating on more selection in the form of carpet and floor covering displays.

"We have focused on expanding our sample racking and our displays of flooring have also expanded," explains Sales. "That takes up less space and gives people a better overview of available product... we have always tried to provide a large variety of products and we feel that by doing that we lessen the need for our customers to go out of town in search of their decorating supplies."

KNOWLEDGEABLE AND DEDICATED STAFF

Sales says that it is possible to provide big city selection even in the small town environs, if one is careful to keep one's finger on the pulse of the industry.

"We receive a lot of compliments from out of town customers with regard to our selection and we also receive compliments about the professionalism of our staff."

Sales says that access to a knowledgeable staff base is paramount to the success of a home decorating business.

"I'm lucky .. I have excellent people with a strong interest in decorating and because we are a Benjamin Moore (Paints) Signature Store we have

access to ongoing training programs provided by Benjamin Moore," says Sales.

"My staff is very involved in upgrading their knowledge and they attend the courses and that requires dedication, because the courses are only offered out of town. I'm very proud of my staff, my installers have been with me for 15 years or more. Several of my store staff have been with me for over a decade."

Sales says that availability of a dedicated staff base gives his customers access to a solid foundation as they approach a decorating job.

"The courses increase our professionalism. A lot of our customers are fairly mature and they recognize good help," says Sales.

"We're often told that it's hard to find good people who know the decorating business and we receive an awful lot of compliments from both our repeat customers and our new clients. It's all about people being creative and trying to improve their surroundings and we're just here to offer our best advice."

Cordell cont'd... pg. 8...



Highland Images

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Cordell cont'd...

...from pg. 7

Sales says that a big part of customer service rests with developing a rapport with the client needs.

"Color is a fun thing to play with and I really like that about our business," says Sales, who adds that for the most part people approach a project with a pretty laissez faire and fun attitude.

But anyone who knows a type A personality can attest to the fact that it ain't always a walk in the park, especially if expectations are high.

Sales says that it should be entertaining and adds that as long as one approaches a project with fun in mind, it can be a positive experience.

"But it can also be a very stressful time for some people," says Sales.

STAY CONSERVATIVE WITH CARPET COLORS

"We try to offer advice that will prevent them from making mistakes... sometimes people come in with a plan and they just want a second opinion," he adds.

To that end, Sales says that Cordell's will also do color consulting and will make house calls for a small fee.

"People today are exposed to a lot of advice on the Internet and in magazines. So most of our customers come in very well prepared. We're here to provide them with choices and we hope to allow them to make informed decisions," says Sales.



"And in the case of floor coverings, we usually have to go out to the location to measure and it's then that we can offer advice and consultation about their plans... it gives us an opportunity to assess the project and if asked, offer advice."

Sales says that one wants to make the most flamboyant choices in the area of paint and not on the floor covering. It's wise to stay mainly neutral when selecting floor coverings and save the more imaginative choices for the paint. The bad paint decision can be rectified, while a poor carpet choice will cost huge to rectify.

Sales says that he and his staff are dedicated to assisting the customer over the full spectrum of decorating needs.

Part of that commitment to excellence has led to Cordell's being named as a Benjamin Moore Signature Store.

Sales says that people who know paint, turn to Benjamin Moore for their interior decorating needs.

Benjamin Moore has been on the cutting edge of the industry for years and Sales says that his customers recognize the commitment to quality.

"Most people are looking for assistance in their choice of color," says Sales. "And Benjamin Moore is considered the leader in providing consumers with the tools and choices they need to make wise decorating decisions. With Benjamin Moore we have the tools available for recognizing and predicting trends. Benjamin Moore spends considerable time and effort in this area."

Cordell Carpet cont'd... pg. 9...



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Cordell cont'd...

....from pg. 8

That and the fact that his staff are able to partake in the aforementioned courses offered by Benjamin Moore is one of the reasons that Cordell Carpet became a Signature Store.

QUALITY SELLS

Sales says that City TV and their City Line programs use a lot of Benjamin Moore products in their programs aimed at decorating. They have a couple of shows each week dedicated to design and decorating and he says that the regulars on City TV shows all use Benjamin Moore colors.

"We like the quality and our customers do as well," says Sales, who has survived for thirty years by building a reputation based on quality.

He says Cordell Carpet Interiors is beholden to trends in cottage country and that his business is reflective of the general economy in the area.

"Locally our business has followed the ebb and flow in the local construction industry," says Sales.

"When contractors are busy, we're busy as well... over the past several years we have been very busy... but over the last 14 months, there has been a general slowdown in building... we're just starting to notice that now. Contractors make up a fairly large part of our business. This fall has been slower than the past several years and there has been a slowdown in general contracting. But after a lot of years of very brisk business it's sometimes good to have a slowdown. I'm not all that concerned. It's natural."

He adds that he also maintains a very loyal local residential base, people and residents who he sees on a monthly or yearly basis.

"The winter is normally slower, but last year we were busy right through January and February," says Sales. "People will usually reserve their small renovations and painting projects for January and February, because it's a fairly inexpensive decorating project to do after Christmas."

And the winter also affords Sales some free time pursuing his own interests that, when his girls Stephanie and Alicia were growing up, used to include a lot of time spent at the rink working very closely with the local figure skating club.

The girls are grown now. Stephanie is a teacher in Lindsay and Alicia is pursuing a burgeoning singing career.

Alicia has fronted a cover band known as the Dixie Chicklets for the past several years. That's allowed her to travel across Canada and the US with various stops in Europe and Asia.

The nest may be empty, but Sales says he's had no desire to ponder retirement or winter forays to Florida or Arizona.

"I have a great staff and I can schedule time for myself knowing the business is in good hands," says Sales.

Other than that, Sales still likes playing around with color and sharing his insight with customers.

And, if you're into Feng Shui.

Just suffice to say that Brad Sales seems to have found his confluence of time and space, prompting... harmony... of course.

To reach Cordell Carpet call 457-2022.



Sounds of Christmas – by the Messiah Choir

Get ready to be entertained by the wonderful "Sounds of Christmas" by the Haliburton Messiah Choir. It's a Christmas event you won't want to miss so be sure to get your tickets now. You have two chances to catch this presentation, Sunday, Dec. 9 at 2:30 pm and Monday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 pm at Northern Lights Pavilion. Reserved Seating \$15.00. Tickets are available at Kitchens Etc. Haliburton, Pharma Save Minden.



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Santa Claus Parade

A First For Minden Director of Community Services

by George Farrell

This is a story of several focuses. The Santa Claus Parade is seen as a thread, and a case-in-point, that shows strengths and maybe some areas that could be improved, as Minden struggles to define its image.

The revitalizing of Minden is still very much a work in progress. That so many things have been going on in that direction is due to the work of a few volunteers, individual business owners and the Municipality of Minden Hills itself. We have seen wonderful results from their efforts, but much still remains to be done.

One of the biggest problems still facing the community is trying to get the merchants together as a unit, in order to interface with corresponding efforts from the rest of the community, and county council decisions. While progress has been made in getting an effective merchant's association up and running, right now those efforts need to be re-energized. The ball presently lies in the court of the municipality, as much has been done to bring the process to where an executive, which represents the merchants, can hopefully become a committee of council.

On the other hand, the municipality has done a very good thing by recognizing the necessity of creating a position which will enable the council to more easily interact with merchants and citizens alike, on issues which impact the community. The newly created position is called Director of Community Services, and the first person to fill the post is Rick Cox.

I spoke to Rick in his office on the eve of the Santa Claus Parade. Rick, prior to accepting the Minden posting in April of this year, had been working for the City of Kawartha Lakes, as the Community Development Co-ordinator for Parks and Recreation. He has been living in Cannington for the past ten years, with his wife Sian, and their three children, Zach 12, Emma 9, and Luke 3.

Rick jumped at the opportunity to work in Minden. "The opportunity was a good career move," he says, "The chance to work with the community to build recreational programmes and facilities, and to move to the directors position," was an opportunity too good to pass up. Rick explained a bit about how the new position came into being. "In 2006 the council took a strong look at the situation with the parks, arena, and cemetery department and commissioned a consultant review. The outcome of the review recommended a re-structuring. The way that this council (an election took place in the interim) chose to implement it, was to establish this position to oversee the parks, arena and cemetery, and to be responsible for recreational programming and special events." One of those events is the Santa Claus Parade. More on the parade shortly.

"My challenge," says Rick after a moment to consolidate his thoughts, "will be to prioritize among the variety of potential programmes and initiatives. There's a lot going on in the community and I want to support the efforts. Infrastructure issues like community trails, the skate board park and the Riverwalk are already in play, so the challenge is one of

prioritization, as there is no master plan at the present time. Another challenge will be integrating the existing initiatives to be in-line with each other, and to be a bit more focused. For example the Riverwalk, the Festival of Banners, Canada Day, and a merchants association-they all support each other to create a more attractive and vibrant Minden. My opportunity is to co-ordinate those initiatives more effectively. There are lots of exciting opportunities and ideas. If I can somehow tie them together....right now things are happening informally. It's not a criticism, but I see my role as being a focal point for some of that co-ordination." Rick Cox is clearly a man who understands what it is that he'd like to do.

As to how a business association might play a part, Rick had this to say. "I personally think that having an organized business association, no matter what it might be called, is a very important stepping stone for

the community, and for me to work with and support. The municipality needs to be at the table, as well as the citizens, volunteers, and the business community, in an organized way, to make sure that the opportunities are maximized. From where I sit, the absence of a structured business organization means

that there's a hole in the team. Even though the business owners are stepping up to the plate, the collective is not there yet."

"We need an overall recreational master plan, which is one priority," Rick continues. "It should address elements such as infrastructure, programming and operations. The process of coming up with that plan would engage the business community and the residents. The plan drafted on behalf of the business community could be integrated in to, and as part

of, the recreational plan. If for instance both plans showed an interest in additional activities on the river, then I would work with the merchant organization to implement the concept. I'd like to use the focal points of the downtown core, the fairgrounds, the museum and cultural centre complex, and Rotary Park. The connectors are the Riverwalk and the community trails system. Right now Canada Day is the only example that uses all the focal points. We need to expand that model and build on it."

Rick proceeds to talk about a big event which will be coming up for Minden in 2009. "Our planning for the sesquicentennial (Minden's 150th birthday), is a perfect opportunity to bring all these elements together. I've got a bunch of ideas, and council has struck a committee. I'll be working with that committee. An organized merchant's association or BIA would be very helpful in organizing a unified front for the sesquicentennial event, which is like the Olympics coming to town. There's not a lot of opportunity where you can take advantage of funding from both the Federal and Provincial governments, as well as various foundations. It would be unfortunate if there wasn't an organized 'buy-in' from the business community.

Rick Cox cont'd... pg. 11...

Chuck Golden Honoured at Minden Santa Parade

... from pg. 10

Changes To The Santa Claus Parade

Finally, I can almost hear some of you saying, Farrell is going to say something about the parade. Well, I am going to say a bit about it, at the end of this tome, but first let's hear what Rick had to say about what was essentially, the first community activity that would bear his footprint.

"The township is organizing the parade. It's my task to head that. Timberfest and Canada Day were already underway organizationally, so I didn't have so much to do with those events this year. I've had a lot of help from the municipal staff, volunteers, and council members, with the Santa Claus Parade. It's my first parade of any sort, so I don't have a frame of reference, but I'm pleased with how things have turned out, so far. There were about 35 registered floats, with several more likely to show up. We're ready for people who want to take part in the last minute. I think it's about as big as last years. Next year I'll have a frame of reference, and something to build on. This is only the third year the municipality has done the parade. Before that the Lions Club organized it, and quite honestly we're still figuring some things out."

There was quite a lot different with this year's parade. For one thing there was a date change, from the last Saturday in November, to the first Saturday in December. This was done to incorporate the Midnight Madness, which took place in Minden on the Friday evening before the parade, as well as the customary lighting of the Christmas tree on the same evening. The change in date was also made so as not to conflict Midnight Madness with the Haliburton Santa Claus Parade, which is what happened last year. There was also a time change. This years parade started early, at 10:30 am, in order to accommodate the busy schedule of the Kawartha Kavaliers marching band, a great addition to the event. Another change was the parade route. It went in the opposite direction to former parades. Rick point out that "it fits into the Community Centre scheduling better to have the parade end at the Community Centre (instead of starting there). The route was changed to start at the Municipal Parking lot. From there it proceeds up to the Rockliffe Tavern, where it will take a turn, and head north up Bobcaygeon Road, on over the bridge and on to the Community Centre." There were two reasons for the change of direction for the parade, Rick informs me.

"There were concerns about a possible emergency call-out from the Firehall, which abuts the municipal parking lot." Furthermore, "at the Community Centre people are already there for events like free public skating. There will also be picture taking with Santa, indoors, and buggy rides outdoors, around the ball diamond. There will be free hot dogs, hot chocolate and candy for the kids. We've decorated up the rink by putting seasonal images right into the ice, and there will be decorations around the building, as well as Christmas music for the skaters."

The Parade (finally)

"I'm feeling good about it, but I'm a bit anxious about the weather, and how the changes will work out." That final statement from Rick Cox turned out to be prophetic, as it was a bitterly cold day that greeted parade watchers on the morning of the first day in December. Oh, the sun was out all right, but the wind was cutting, and you had to be dressed for it. You could tell the effort that had gone into each individual float, though there was a somewhat threadbare feeling to the procession. The highlight for me had to be seeing the Kawartha Kavaliers, led by the intrepid Chuck Golden, march again, after a long absence, down the main street of Minden, their lips stuck to brass instruments, exhalations bursting from mouths and noses like old-fashioned steam trains,

pulling out of the station. The musical collective played, and moved no further than appropriately, Golden Stationers, where MC Jack Brezina called to Chuck over the loud speakers to "come to the dais to accept an award" in appreciation of his work in the community, and on the occasion of what is probably, Chucks last time as drum major in Minden. (Hey Chuck don't forget the Sesquicentennial- a great event for a comeback performance).

A well wrapped-up Rick Cox presented Chuck with a plaque. Chuck, for his part, looked as if he'd like either to rip Ricks warm clothes off him, to wear himself, or to keep on marching, in order to get some circulation into what must have been a frigid body; his parade outfit not really designed for the weather. And keep marching they did, with the floats in procession, then finally by the familiar, waving, white-bearded Christmas icon. On his heels was a train of autos, filled with frozen adults and little children, eager to get to the warm confines of the Community Centre.

The Community Centre was packed with the de-thawing bodies of the human mass, inching its way towards either the bearded Christmas icon,

Rick Cox cont'd... pg. 12...

A Little Bit of Everything

A Little Bit of Everything is here to help you with all of your Christmas needs. Are you looking for a special gift for that hard-to-buy for person? We might have what you're searching for.

Do you need supplies for your Christmas party or dinner? We have napkins, plates, bowls, mugs, and charger plates.

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Is your tree looking like it's missing something? We carry all sorts of ornaments and tinsel of various shapes, sizes and colors. Do you need stocking stuffers? We have lots of little items to add to your Christmas stockings.

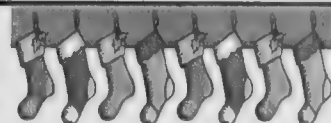
Be sure to shop early, as seasonal items sell out very quickly.

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Debbie, Ira & Joanne



Minden Director cont'd....

... from pg. 11

or the nearest hot chocolate and dog. While Santa complied with having strange little children sit on his knee, in order to have their pictures taken with the benevolent one, parents cooed and vied for space in order to wipe their kiddies snotty noses before the flash of the bulb froze their kids in time, and laid testament to the parents negligence in the sanitary section of their job descriptions. "My kid does not have a runny nose, that's just frost thawing on his cheek." Ah, Christmas, parents and children; ya gotta love it.

Incredibly outside, some children, and even Jim McMahon, opted for buggy rides, determined smiles frozen on the communal countenance.

Enough of my irreverence, as one must at least elude to an estimation as to the relative success of this year's Santa Claus Parade in Minden. This is not the place to do a critical de-briefing; however, I saw kids thoroughly enjoying themselves, and Rick Cox now has a frame of reference. It's my guess though, that he feels a more organized front, on behalf of Minden area merchants, not to mention warmer weather, might help in making next year's parade a greater success.

Pictured: Rick Cox in the office; Rick present Chuck Golden with a plaque; various parade photos; Holly and Emily Parish with Santa

MNR Grant Funds Trust Research On Rare Species

There is more than its peculiar name to make the Five-Lined Skink the oddest of Haliburton County's rare creatures.

First of all, it is Ontario's only true lizard and not a salamander, although it may look like one. Salamanders are born in water and like damp spots while Skinks are born on land and like hot, dry places.

Second, there is the blue tail of the young skink which distracts predators from other parts of its body. If something grabs the tail, it pulls off and keeps wriggling to distract the hunter. A new tail grows in its place.

Though it once may have been found throughout southern Ontario, its territory appears to be limited to the edge of the Canadian shield, including sites in Haliburton County. Its preferred habitat is sunny, open forests with rock outcrops, rocky shorelines or rock piles in open spots.

Preliminary research conducted by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) identifies areas north of the Monck Road between Irondale and Gooderham and west of Bob Lake, as potentially suitable habitat for the Skink.

A provincial grant has enabled the HHLT to commission Paul Heaven to advance that research on the Skink and 13 other plants and creatures on Ontario's Species at Risk list.

Heaven's study, which should be ready for publication in February, will try to identify habitats used by the 14 species and determine the reasons for population declines.

The grant of \$25,200 to HHLT was part of \$3-million in funding announced by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Species at Risk (SAR) Stewardship Fund last fall.

Partners in the project are The Land Between of Haliburton, the Frost Campus of Sir Sandford Fleming College in Lindsay, Ont., and the Haliburton Highlands Land Stewardship Council of Minden.

Land Trusts are working together with private landowners and governments to protect areas of special ecological interest, says HHLT chair Ian Daniel.

There is a need to know more about the habitat of Species at Risk. This project will clarify and add to the body of scientific data showing which areas in Haliburton may be especially important for wildlife protection.

The Skink cont'd... pg. 13...



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Researching The Skink cont'd...

... from pg. 12

Results of the study also will help the Trust make decisions on properties and conservation easements it is offered. One of its main functions is to acquire lands of special ecological interest and preserve them in their natural state in perpetuity.

The first report prepared by Heaven's Glenside Ecological Services Ltd. was called County of Haliburton Natural Heritage Mapping: A Compilation and Preliminary Assessment.

The Skink's territory evidently includes the garden of Communicator writer George Farrell who has spotted the lizard there with its five creamy-white or yellowish stripes that run the length of its shiny black body. The blue on its tail disappears as it matures.

Its hunting tactics are a mix of the frog's and the cat's. It smells with its tongue and will leap from a high perch to catch a flying



insect or pounce on a bug, rolling over and over as it tries to pin it down. When it eats, it licks its lips after each bite.

The 14 Haliburton rarities on the SAR list include five in the most serious category, Endangered. There are two plants, American Ginseng and Engelmann's Quillwort; two birds, Peregrine Falcon and Loggerhead Shrike; and one reptile, the Wood Turtle.

Less grave is the plight of four Threatened species. They are the Golden-Winged Warbler, Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, Blandings Turtle and the Stinkpot turtle.

Of Special Concern are the Southern Flying Squirrel, Spotted Turtle, Five-Lined Skink, Milksnake

and Eastern Ribbonsnake.

If you think you have seen any of these plants or creatures, call Neil Campbell at 1-705-457-7158 or e-mail him at neilcampbell@xplornet.com.

If you would like to learn more about the HHLT, take a look at its web site: <http://www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca/>

Picture: Photo by David Coulas

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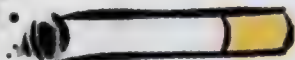
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Believe it or NOT

Strange & Almost Unbelievable (but true) Facts

Thinking of quitting smoking this new year.. maybe this will help – especially the part at the end ... Even if you're not thinking of quitting, there are some interesting facts here that I didn't know about until now...

Smoking:



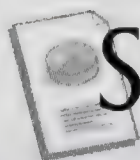
While British and American tobacco companies are in the headlines often, China actually is the world's largest cigarette producer. The China National Tobacco Company holds 31% of the cigarette market. Philip Morris holds about 17%, British American Tobacco 13%, and RJR Reynolds about 6%. Almost 60% of Chinese men - that's 450 million Chinese men - puff their way through the day. Only 6% of Chinese women smoke.

Tobacco is a \$200 billion industry, producing six trillion cigarettes a year - about 1,000 cigarettes for each person on earth. Western governments nowadays are up in arms about the health hazards of smoking, as if to have only recently discovered the hazards. In the early 1940s, the Nazi government was the first to link cancer with smoking and was the first to ban smoking in public buildings. Hitler did not smoke or drink alcohol.

This is what you'll find in cigarettes: Toluene, which is commonly used as an ingredient in paint thinner; Acetone, an active ingredient in nail polish remover; Ammonia, which scientists have discovered lets you absorb more nicotine, keeping you hooked on smoking. If you smoke, you're also inhaling formaldehyde, which embalmers use to preserve dead bodies, and arsenic, benzene, cadmium, hydrogen cyanide, lead, mercury and phenol. In all, 44 types of poison.

Reference: Canada Health Authority.

Maybe that will be incentive to quit and stick to it this coming new year.



Statistics

Did you know...

At one time, the longest speech given in the U.S. Senate was made on June 12, 1935, when Senator Huey Long began a filibuster that lasted a continuous 15½ hours. His record was broken by South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond in 1957. Thurmond spoke continuously for 24 hours and 18 minutes.

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Ethanol

An alternative fuel, ethanol produces low emissions, and supports U.S. farmers, who grow most of the corn from which the fuel comes. Many American cars can run on either gasoline or ethanol. But ethanol is less energy-dense than other fuels, so it reduces fuel economy by 25% to 30%. And good luck finding a gas station that sells it. Pictured here: ethanol-capable Chevrolet Avalanche.

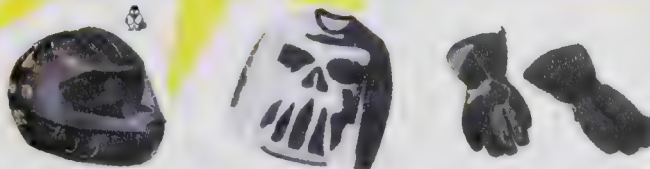
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Summer Festival Committee Members for 2008 Season Appointed

The Highland Summer Festival committee is pleased to announce the appointment of the seven member Highlands Summer Festival board of directors for this season. The directors include: Jack Brezina, President; Tammy Rea, Vice President; Craig Saunders, Secretary; Rob Eaton, Treasurer; and Directors Joan Chapple, Juliane vanLieshout and Paul Heffer.

These seven will serve as interim directors of the company until directors are confirmed at the first annual meeting in April.

The board is looking forward to another exciting season on the Highlands Summer Festival stage under the management of Artistic Producer Scott Denton, Co-Producers David Mills and Melissa Stephens, Business Manager Betty Mills and Artistic Directors of the Highlands Opera Studio, Richard Margison and Val Kuinka.

Dumb Criminals *Dumb Criminals*

A man walked into a Louisiana Circle-K, put a \$20 bill on the Counter, and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, Leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from The drawer? \$15.

(If someone points a gun at you and gives you money, was a crime committed?)

Seems this Arkansas guy wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cinder block through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cinder block and heaved it over his Head at the window. The cinder block bounced back and hit the would-be Thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. Seems the liquor store window was made of Plexiglas and the whole event was caught on videotape.



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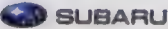
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One Winter Morning ...

One winter morning a couple is listening to the radio over breakfast. They hear the announcer say, 'We are going to have 8 to 10 inches of snow today. We are asking everyone to park their car on the even-numbered side of the street, so there is room for the snowploughs to get through.'

The wife goes out and moves her car.

A week later while they are eating breakfast again, the radio announcer says, 'We are expecting 10 to 12 inches of snow today. Today you must park your car on the odd-numbered side of the street, so the snowploughs can get through.'

The wife goes out and moves her car to the odd-numbered side.

The next week they are again having breakfast, when the radio announcer says, 'We are expecting 12 to 14 inches of snow today. You must park'. Then the power goes out.

The wife is very upset, and with a worried look on her face she says, 'Honey, I don't know what to do! Which side of the street do I need to park on so the snowploughs can get through today?'

With the love and understanding in his voice, that all married men exhibit, the husband says, 'Why don't you just leave it in the garage this time?'

It's time to get excited! Minden's 150th Birthday Plans Need Your Help

In 2009, Minden will be turning 150 years old. The village, formerly known as Gull River, earned the name Minden with the opening of our first post office on April 1st, 1859. Back then, Main Street was little more than a trail through the woods, and building a bridge across the river was only just being thought of.

As part of our 150th Anniversary, or Sesquicentennial (say that 10 times fast) preparations, we are updating the original Minden Centennial Book released in 1959 by adding on the next 50 years - and for that we need your help!

Do you have pictures of Minden's Main Street from the 1950s up through the 1990s? Do you remember what businesses and institutions existed in the village of Minden when phone numbers were less than 7 digits? If you have any memories of Minden from the past 50 years or so that you would like to share with us, please give Erin Kernohan a call at the Minden Hills Museum at 286-3154, between 10-4 from Monday to Friday.

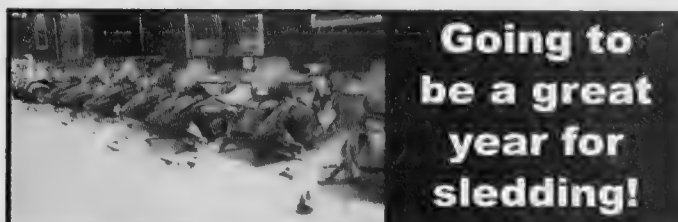
Thinking of Becoming A Chef?... This Program Is For You...

The Haliburton Campus of Fleming College has received funding from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to offer a pre-apprenticeship program in the trade of Cook Apprentice. Pre-apprenticeship helps people who want a career in a specific skilled trade by providing the technical training necessary to enter an apprenticeship in that trade.

The Cook Pre-apprenticeship program runs 24 weeks and includes an eight-week work placement to give each participant real work experience. The program is scheduled to begin in January 7, 2008 with the in-school training ending in April followed by the eight week work placement. The college is accepting registrations for the program now.

Fleming College has entered into an agreement with the Delta Pinestone Resort to offer the lab component of the program in one of their commercial kitchens that is not in use during the winter months. The balance of the training will take place at the Haliburton Campus location. Participation in the program is free.

For more information on registering for the Cook Pre-apprenticeship program or for information on offering a work placement for a participant, please contact Ted Brandon at Fleming College at 705-457-1680 or tbrandon@fleming.on.ca.



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		3	1					4
			3	4	8			
2					7	3		
6		5		1		9		
		8		9	3			5
7			6		2	8	4	1

Solution on pg. 53...

Community Care Events

Every Tuesday Community Care offers Weight Lifting for Mature Adults - with individual evaluations followed up by a specific individual program designed just for you by a Can-Fit Pro certified personal trainer. Call 457-2941 for information. Support is provided from an Government of Ontario Active 2010 grant.

Every Thursday Community Care offers Easy Fit Yoga for Mature Adults with yoga and fitness activities while standing, lying on the floor and sitting in a chair. The instructor is Gail Holeness. Call 457-2941 for more information. Support is provided from an Government of Ontario Active 2010 grant.

Dec. 6 Join the Community Care Diners Club for lunch at the Minden Legion at 12 noon. These luncheons offer fun, friendships and great food. Call 457-2941 if you would like to attend Diners Club.

Dec. 12 - Join the Community Care Diners Club for a family style chinese lunch at Win Yeung's in Haliburton, the lunch begins at 12 noon. These luncheons offer fun, friendships and great food. Call 457-2941 if you would like to attend Diners Club.

Dec. 12 - All Community Care Volunteers are invited for a Christmas Luncheon in the Drop In Centre at Community Care. Come enjoy a wonderful free lunch, meet other volunteers, and have a visit from Santa.

Note: Community Care would like to thank all of their great team of volunteers. The services offered through Community Care would not happen with this incredible individuals.

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IN THE LOCKER ROOM

By Terrance Gavan

Teach Your Children Well... It's Part of the Game

Here's what Crosby Stills and Nash once said.

"Teach you children well, your father's hell did slowly go by."

Here's what I know about that.

The coaches and parents involved with the Duffield Devils and the Niagara Falls Thunder hockey teams should be forced to commit the lyrics to memory and should be made to sit in an empty dressing room reciting and singing "Teach Your Children" while their sons play hockey in another section of town.

Here's what I know about the parents and coaches of those two teams.

They were all there when the two teams of eight-year-old players become involved in a bench clearing brawl after a tournament game.

Here's what I know about that.

Eight Year old hockey players are not capable of mustering the resolve to get involved in a bench clearing brawl without the nurturing support of their parents and coaches.

Here's what David Crosby said about that.

Hey! Teach Your Children! Well? I said!!!!... Well....?? Well?

Here's what one coach said after the fracas.

"It happened so fast... we couldn't stop them."

Here's what I know about that.

I had a teacher in high school named Fr. Bedard and all he had to do was stare at us and slowly recite three little words: "Don't speak out!" And that was enough to send shudders through a class of rambunctious 16 year olds. No one and I mean no one... spoke out! Silence ruled.

Here's what I know about that.

Big Bob, as we came to know Fr. Bedard, knew all about teaching children well. And nurturing respect. And come to think of it... love. He offered the same support while coaching basketball.

So here's what I think about an adult who maintains that eight year olds move too fast.

Go take a coaching course, get on the freakin' bike, buy a dog and don't venture into coaching again until you have taught your dog to sit, shake a paw and fetch a tennis ball.

Here's what Bobby Clarke said recently in an interview on OTR with Mike Landsberg.

"Fighting is a part of the game... period."

Here's what I know about Bobby Clarke.

He used to play for the Flin Flon Bombers for a coach that used to end his practices by timing how fast his charges could drop their gloves. Last gloves to hit the ice did 500 pushups while his teammates looked on scornfully. True story.

Here's what I know about that little ditty.

Crosby Stills and Nash did a lot of questionable pharmaceuticals, but boy did they hit the nail on the head. Bobby Clarke was taught really, really well.

Here's what I read recently about the brawl in question.

Guelph police are reviewing a videotape of the incident and an allegation that a Thunder coach spat in the face of a Devils coach.

Here's what I think about that.

"Gentlemen... Gentlemen... are you out of your cotton pickin' minds???"

Here's what one clown in charge said in response to all the publicity.

"It's an unfortunate situation because it's only an 8-year-old hockey team and to have this kind of publicity in regard to hockey, it's pretty sad." This from Butch Sacco, Head Whacko and president of the Niagara Falls Minor Hockey Association.

Here's what I know about Butchy who is less concerned about the incident than he is with bad press.

Butchy sounds like he used to party with Crosby, Stills and Nash.

Here's what Crosby Still and Nash said about the grown-ups involved in this little frozen moment.

"Teach your parents well... The childrens' hell... Will slowly go by... And feed them on your dreams... The one they picks... The one you'll know by... Don't you ever ask them why... If they told you, you would cry... So just look at them and sigh... And know they love you."

Here's what I know about that.

Next time we head out to the rink to watch the kids.

Know they love you.

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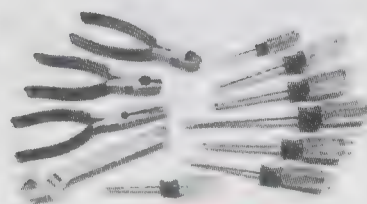
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Church Events

Celebrating Christmas

LADIES FELLOWSHIP - West Guilford Community Centre

Thursday, December 6, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

Feature: **Facial Makeover - Tiffany How and Friends - Music: Toos Reid** - Minden - Speaker: **MICHELLE REAY. Please bring 1/2 dozen of Christmas baking and UNWRAPPED TOY for 4C's.** For further information, please contact Lyn at 457-3155 or Alice at 754-2808

Wilberforce Ecumenical Christmas Caroling Service

December 7 - 7 p.m.

Wilberforce United Church

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Minden presents

"Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols"

Sunday, December 9, 2007 at 4 p.m.,

St. Paul's Anglican Church in Minden will present "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols".

Join us for a traditional carol service using the form developed for King's College in Cambridge, England. You will hear familiar and moving Christmas Bible readings, sing favourite carols, and enjoy music for Christmas. The choir of St. Paul's and organist and choir director Elaine Bell, will be joined by four soloists who are local young people: Erin Stephen, Janice Kiteley, Nicole Jennings, and Travis Stephen. There is no charge for admission, but a free-will offering will be taken. Refreshments will follow. St. Paul's Church is located at 19 Invergordon Avenue in Minden, on the north side of the Gull River, opposite the Beer Store. For more information call St. Paul's Church at 286-2541 or Elaine Bell at 457-9422

"Old Fashioned Christmas Carol Sing A Long

Wednesday December 12 - 7:30 p.m.

Lochlin United Church

Everyone welcome to enjoy an old fashioned Christmas carol sing-a-long at the Lochlin United Church - on Lochlin Rd. off the Gelert Road at Lochlin. Refreshments following include hot cider and Christmas goodies. Donations to the food bank are gratefully accepted.

Gooderham Family Music Night

December 14 - 7 p.m.

Gooderham United Church

A Christmas Festival of Readers & Carols

December 16 - 4:30 p.m.

St. George's Anglican Church - Haliburton

Everyone is invited to attend this year's exciting Christmas Festival of Readers and Carols, presented by the

St. George's Cantata Choir & Readers. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available in advance from Master's Book Store in Haliburton, The Church Office, or a limited number are available at the door.

"Like The Dickens"

Tuesday December 18 - 7:00 p.m.

Haliburton United Church

The Highlands Male Chorus in conjunction the CBC Radio presents Like The Dickens. It is the reading of the Christmas Carol by Dickens by a CBC Radio personality, Christopher Thomas, and four local personalities The Highlands Male Chorus will perform Christmas

music and there will be audience participation in the singing of carols. It will take place at Haliburton United Church on Tuesday December 18th at 7:00pm. The net proceeds for the evening will go to the four food banks of the County of Haliburton. Tickets for unreserved seats are \$15:00 and we ask that you also bring a non-perishable food item if you so wish. Tickets are available from the chorus members and Kitchens Etc. in Haliburton and Pharmasave Drug Store in Minden.

For more information contact the Haliburton United Church

Haliburton - Ron Clark Tel: 705-286-3248 - Email:

ron.clark@sympatico.ca

The Nativity Story

Northern Lights Pavilion - 7 p.m.

December 21

Rated PG, this movie which was released last year is the amazing story of one family, one journey and one child that would change the world ... forever. Admission is free. For more information contact Phone: 705-457-2851 x24, or Email: dave@lakesidebaptist.ca

Christmas in the County

Sunday, December 23 - 10:30 a.m.

Minden Community Centre

The Highland Lakes Community Church is pleased to present "Christmas in the County". Please join us for a morning of Dramatic and Musical/Vocal presentations, featuring our "Little Lambs" Children's ministry. There will be Carol singing and some Christmas treats and refreshments served after the program. All are welcome to experience the wonder of the season with us. For more information contact Pastor Ron Mahler Tel: 705 455-9558 or email:

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Sir Sam's Ski Area To Open a Day Early

By Terrance Gavan

So long El Nino and put your Eagle Lake Orange Crop futures on hold for at least another year.

The Champagne Express cranked into the Haliburton Highlands last week bringing well over two feet of snow.

We call that Champagne now kiddies, so don your helmet and succumb to the zenspeak.

Two feet sounds better in the new math. So let's go for it metric kids.

Two feet (or 27 inches to be precise) is the equivalent of hmmm...327 centimeters of snow?

So okay, it's really only 68 centimeters, but anyway you cut it, there's a lotta' white out there.

Bad news for drivers and Crash Test Dummies, but good news for a lot of Ski Hill operators who after a disastrous Christmas last year have all been pushing their opening days forward to take advantage of this unexpected but welcome windfall.

Sir Sam's spokesman Chris Bishop says that Sir Sam's will push their scheduled opening up one day to Friday, December 7.

Sir Sam's was one of the few ski areas in Ontario that stayed open for the bulk of the Christmas Break last season. This year, the extended forecast is looking very good right through the Christmas Break, and that is being reflected by an abundance of action on the Snow School and Sir Sam's Ski Area websites.

Snow School Instructor Terrance Gavan, who manages the Snow School Website for Snow School Directors Rick and Jeff Bartlett, says that program registration for both the Christmas and mid-season Snow School Programs is up significantly from last year.

"The warm weather and extended rain, coupled with the bleak outlook and hill closure at Blue Mountain all conspired to lower program numbers last season," says Gavan.

"Both the hill and the Snow School rely heavily on a Toronto-area client base and most GTA residents had no idea that Sir Sam's actually had a workable snowbase to ski on last season. Of course, that's all changed this year. The snow has been pummeling Haliburton and the Highlands... I've been cranking 360's off my backyard kicker and all is definitely right with this little patch of God's white hectare," says Gavan.

"I recently had an opportunity to meet one-on-one with the Dalai Lama and he did assure me that the Haliburton Highlands would be receiving a Tibetan-style crank of snow this winter and that's gotta' be great karma," says Gavan.

Gavan said that registrations are up for all programs by about 70% over last year and adds that the website is fielding a large volume of emails daily.

Christmas programs in Kinderski, Juvie Ski, Juvie Race and Learn to Snowboard are divided into two four-day sessions beginning on Dec 26 and on Jan 2.

"You may register on line via our website or you may also wish to download the PDF copy of the form via the website," says Gavan. "We're receiving a lot of requests for all programs right now, and as usual we are urging all parents to get their children enrolled just as soon as possible. Once we get our numbers crunched we can then begin to allocate our instructors accordingly."

Chris Bishop says that the planned Opening Day was pushed ahead from Dec 8 to Dec 7 in part to accommodate a planned PE Day scheduled by one of the local school boards.

"We're expecting a good crowd on Friday and hope that it carries over to the opening weekend," said Bishop.

"Mother Nature is making up for last season in a Big Way," added Bishop, who has been busy taking pictures of grooming and snowmaking operations over the past several weeks.

Bishop would also like to remind everyone that conditions and info can be had by dialing 705-754-2298. The pictures and web cams, along with a full lineup of upcoming events is always available on line by digitally dialing www.sirsams.com onto your favorite browser.

"We have a great line up of events for the upcoming season," says Bishop. "New this year we will be offering snowshoe trails and rentals. The trails wind their way up the edge of the ski slope and through a mix of hardwood and evergreen forests. The views from the top of the Kingston Road and Crash and Carry runs are spectacular and look over picturesque Eagle and Moose Lakes."

Bishop says that there has been a great response to the addition of the snowshoeing option. And the scenery is just spectacular.

"This five kilometer trail winds through the estate property of Sir Sam Hughes. You can still see the stone fence rows and apple trees that were once part of the farmed fields," says Bishop.

Snowshoe rentals are available. A pass for the day is \$14.95 and rentals are \$10.00 per day.

Bishop says that the regular skiing and snowboarding public can also expect some nice opening day surprises. Right now both frontside and backside areas on the hill have an abundance of snow. Groomers are working hard to thump down a great base and that just bodes well for great skiing right through until March.

Sir Sam's cont'd... pg. 23..





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Front Dumps Two Feet of Snow on Slopes

... from pg. 22

"Skiing and snowboarding is guaranteed to be great and we have an event-filled winter agenda," says Bishop.

"Event highlights include Casino night on Sat Jan. 12th and The Sir Sam's Ski Challenge starting on Sun, Jan 13," says Bishop.

Also on tap will be an Après dinner and dance featuring the "Carl Dixon" Band on the 9th of February. (Tickets must be purchased in advance \$30.00 each.)

Country 105 Day is slated for the 16th of February. Men's Day is scheduled on the 22nd of Feb and Ladies Day on February 29.

Final race of the Sir Sam's Ski Challenge is on Sat. March 1st. Spring Splash is slated for the last Saturday of the season.

Bishop says that other events including Ski and Snowboard Demo Days will be added to the roster of events.

"And don't miss our famous deck BBQ's all season long," says Bishop, who is usually manning the propane guns at the large deck BBQ.

Bishop says that the Ski Area staff is still putting the final wrapping "for a great three-day fun-filled weekend of events for Family Day on the 16th 17th and 18th of February."

That will be a new event this year to take advantage of the Liberal Government's mandated new civic holiday in February.

The Snow School will be running its own slate of races and events as well this year.

On January 19th they will host the Second Annual Match and Win Slalom. Jeff Bartlett would also like to remind all Texas Hold "Em fans and players to sign up for the Casino Night on Jan 12.

The Snow School will again sponsor a Calcutta event and will again be running the popular King and Queen of the Hill Event slated for the weekend following the final race of the Sir Sam's Challenge.

All in all it looks like a power-packed schedule right through until mid-March.

Bishop also wants to remind everyone in Haliburton, even if you don't ski, snowshoe or board, that the views are great and everyone is welcome to come out for a bevvvy or some lunch out at the hill.

He would like to remind everyone as well, with a nod to the showshoe fraternity, the Ski Area has changed Sir Sam's now-famous slogan.

"Cruise it Carve it Love it!" has now been maneuvered to reflect the new addition.

"Cruise it! Carve it! Climb it! Love it!!!" is the new mantra kiddoes. Commit that to memory.

There will be a test on Opening Day, Friday, December 7.

For a glance into the full season schedule go to www.sirsams.com or visit the ski school at www.auriga.on.ca/skischool



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The Art Hive, Haliburton, December 8, 8:00pm

Abbey North Drummers host "On The Frontline" CD release event. Inspired by Stephen Lewis and dedicated to GrandMamas and Orphans.

Come to hear a live performance of selections from Abbey North Drummers' new CD 'On the Frontline' featuring vocalists Franc Mosbaugh, Roger Gibbs, Mary Mosbaugh, Michelle Mondesir, with David McMorro, Lief Mosbaugh, Joe Truss, Barry (Bazza) Hayward and Haliburton's Abbey North Drummers. Help us celebrate the end of a year-long, collaborative and highly successful musical project and raise funds to support HIV/AIDS projects in Africa.

Admission is by donation. A minimum donation of \$25.00 is requested per CD. Space is limited - don't be disappointed. BOOK NOW!!

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The Art Hive artists present a Gingerbread House decorating challenge open to all individuals or teams.

Materials will be supplied but you may bring your own special decorations. Houses are to be created at The Art Hive December 8th and will be on display until December 15.

Members of the public may enter a draw to win one of the houses by making a minimum \$5.00 donation to The Food Bank.

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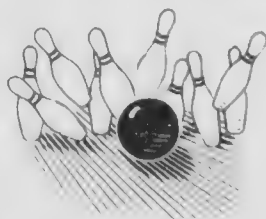
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Birds of a Feather Sue Together

The California Supreme Court in August of 2002 made it more difficult for bystanders to sue physicians for emotional distress.

The case, Bird v. Saenz, stemmed from a Nov. 30, 1994, incident in Los Angeles County hospital.

On that day, Janice Bird, the adult daughter of Nita Bird, brought her mother to the hospital for outpatient surgery.

About an hour to 90 minutes into the surgery, something went wrong with the procedure. About that same time, one of Bird's sisters arrived at the hospital. The two daughters then witnessed doctors rushing their mother to emergency surgery.

According to court papers, Janice Bird saw her mother "being rushed down the hallway." Nita Bird was bright blue and her head was on an angle so that her head was almost touching the ground.

The daughters sued, **NOT** for malpractice, but because they had to witness the incident. These women sued the doctors and the hospital — the same doctors who were rushing to assist their mother — for causing emotional distress to **THEM**.

The case went all the way to the California Supreme Court, where the court ruled against the girls.

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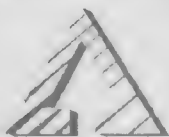
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Audrey Beck

Getting Tough on Crime

By M.P. Barry Devolin

In the past few weeks, our Conservative government has introduced several pieces of legislation that get tough on crime while respecting the rights of law-abiding citizens.

I would like to highlight two of these: proposed changes to the youth justice system; and our plan to eliminate the long-gun registry.

Accountability For Serious Crimes by Youth

For too long, the criminal justice system has been giving a slap on the wrist to dangerous young offenders at the expense of the victims of crime. As a result, many young offenders know they can break the law without facing serious charges.

Canadians can see that this has led to a rise in violent crimes committed by persons under the age of 18. For example, homicides committed by young people are at the highest level in the history of such statistics.

This week, the Harper Government introduced C-25, a tough new piece of crime legislation that will help protect Canadian families.

This legislation provides new tools to ensure that young offenders who commit serious crimes are held accountable both to their communities and to their victims.

Young offenders must be held accountable for serious crimes, and our justice system must consistently demonstrate that actions have consequences.

Young offenders can be rehabilitated, but a big part of rehabilitation is ensuring responsibility is taken for their delinquent or criminal behaviour.

Eliminating the Gun Registry For Long Guns

In another piece of legislation, we re-introduced as C-24 our proposal to eliminate the requirement for Canadians to register their non-restricted long-guns. The Conservative Government fully intends to keep our promise to eliminate the wasteful long-gun registry.

The legislation, originally tabled in June 2006, will repeal the requirement for individuals and businesses to register non-restricted long-guns, while requiring firearms retailers to record all sales transactions of non-restricted firearms — which was the case prior to the imposition of the long-gun registry.

This will not mean anyone can purchase a firearm. Those who wish to acquire a firearm or ammunition will still have to hold a valid firearms licence and comply with all safe storage requirements.

In our recent Speech from the Throne, our Conservative government promised Canadians that we would start getting tough of crime. C-24 and C-25 are just 2 of the pieces of legislation that are moving us towards that goal.

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Lange on the Law
Donald Lange

by **Donald J. Lange**
Barrister & Solicitor

Estate Litigation

Many people make a last will and testament ("the testator") to arrange their affairs in an orderly fashion so that there are no estate problems after they pass away because they have no will. However, things do not always work out as planned even when a person is trying to do the right thing.

There are many challenges to the validity of wills after testators are gone although they really will not care about it by then. The following scenario is one type of challenge. You have two wills. In the first will prepared in 1980, you bequeath your estate to your brother and you tell him that is what you are doing. Your brother resides in another country but you were close to him at that time. You prepare a new will in 2005. All wills have a revocation clause revoking previous wills and other testamentary dispositions so you have a comfort level that the 1980 will is gone. Your brother and you have had a falling out. In your 2005 will, you bequeath your estate to your nephew who is your brother's son. The nephew lives nearby and has now taken care of you for years shopping for groceries and doing yard work, among other things, because you are no longer mobile. You die. Your surviving brother hears of the new will and retains a lawyer to challenge the 2005 will. The challenge is based on an allegation of undue influence by the nephew and the fact that the 1980 will was in favour of the brother.

The executor of your estate is now forced to retain a lawyer. Your nephew also retains a lawyer. Extensive and protracted litigation takes place over a couple of years. The court decides that the 2005 will is valid but that the challenge was reasonable in the circumstances. Who pays the legal costs? Generally speaking, there is a longstanding authority in estate cases to pay the costs of the parties out of the estate. There are two main reasons, one private, one public. Where the difficulties with the will are caused, in whole or in part, by the actions of the testator, courts have held that the testator, through his or her estate, should bear the costs of their resolution. The public policy consideration is that it is important that courts give effect to valid wills that reflect the intention of competent testators. Where there are reasonable grounds to question the will, it is in the public interest that such a question be resolved without costs to those questioning the validity of the will. Thus, the nephew received less than intended.

In the next column, I will be talking about other estate litigation issues.

Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.

Donald J. Lange, LL.B., Ph.D. (Cantab.)

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Paying Your Mortgage Off Faster

First I would like to touch base on how amortization works. A car loan is something most of us can relate to. You get a loan for a new car and pay the same amount every month and after 60 months the car loan is paid off. In this case the amortization on the car loan is the same as the term, 5 years (60 months). Because the amortization is so short the interest portion and principle portion of the payment are almost equal. When we take the same principle but extend it out for 40 years. In the first years almost all of the mortgage payment is interest. In fact it is not until the 30th year that the interest and principle payments become equal and in the last 10 years more and more of each payment become principle.

For example \$100,000.00 mortgage at 6% over 40 years you would pay \$6541.08 yearly in mortgage payments. In the first year \$5909.36 is interest and \$631.72 goes towards paying for your home. In the 10 year of the mortgage \$5465.62 is interest and \$1075.46 goes towards paying for your home. It is not until after the 30 year that we see more of the payments going towards paying for your home than paid in interest to the lender. Many lenders will not take on a mortgage either by transfer in or new application if the amortization is less than 10 years because they do not make enough interest income on the deal.

Some quick and easy tips to paying your mortgage off faster is to take the full one month mortgage payment and divide it in half and make that payment every two weeks. It is an easy way to make 13 months worth of payment instead of 12.

Another way is to increase your mortgage payments. You would be surprised what a big savings a small increase makes. The difference in the mortgage payments between the 25 and 40 years amortization in this example is only a little over 3\$ a day.

The last is to make lump payments with winnings. I am not talking lottery winning, although that would be nice, I mean unexpected extra funds like income tax returns, a pay raise, cash gifts you might receive on your birthday, renting out a room in your home. Every little bit helps and most lenders will let you make a lump payment for a little as \$100.00.

When you renew your mortgage term and if the new payment is less leave the payment at the old higher payment you are use to paying.

And finally one the biggest ways to save on your mortgage is to get the lowest interest rate you can. A \$100,000.00 mortgage with a savings of 1% over the 40 year amortization will save you over \$33000.00 in interest. Certainly worth shopping for the best rate.

To learn more about the other tips give me a call.

Susan Lee

Next issue I will discuss the different down payment options and how your credit score directly affects this. I will be offering a free mortgage information seminar. Call me for details at 705-457-0028.



Susan Lee, CFP
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER
 susanlee@xplornet.com
 cell: 705-457-0028
 www.susanleecfp.com

Haliburton and Area Community Groups Receive Major Boost

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, Inc. (FOCA), and the Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council (HHSC) are pleased to announce the launch of an exciting new community outreach program for lake associations in our region.

Courtesy of a new \$104,700 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), over the next 18 months FOCA and HHSC will be offering consultation and professional support for Haliburton-area lake associations to conduct lake planning and community consultations, in support of sustainable waterfront living.

Laurie Scott, local Member of Provincial Parliament, congratulated FOCA and HHSC. "As the MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock I am pleased to recognize both the FOCA and HHSC for their work in obtaining this grant," said Scott. "It is important that we work with our lake planning partners in order to increase awareness of the proper planning, conservation and stewardship of our resources."

"FOCA's highly successful Lake Stewardship program was launched with Minden MNR in 1993. This latest initiative, generously supported through OTF, builds on the strong tradition of active community involvement by the 100+ volunteer lake associations in this region" states Terry Rees, FOCA's Executive Director.

Established in 1963, FOCA supports the involvement of volunteers in waterfront communities in Haliburton and across Ontario. Waterfront landowners also contribute significantly to the leadership within the volunteer-based Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council. According to HHSC Stewardship Coordinator Nicole Tuyten, "Building lake planning and landowner support tools will be an important contribution to effective stewardship in our region."

The grant from OTF will allow FOCA and HHSC to provide advice, technical support and tools that community groups can use to build on local knowledge, and to put the vision for the area's future into practice.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative. The Foundation allocates grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts and culture, environment, human and social services and sports and recreation sectors.

Bad Predictions *Can I Take That Back Now....*

"A road sign of the future is likely to read "No wheeled vehicles on this highway.' Cars without wheels will float on air, bringing about the passing of the wheel."

- scientist and author Arthur C. Clarke's 1975 vision of transportation in 2000.

A conclusion is the place where
 you got tired of thinking.

Dream Homes



Welcome to the Canadian version of Dream Homes - for the next few issues we'll be featuring some dream homes that are close to home - right here in Canada. Get your lottery tickets ... most of

these homes are currently For Sale !!



Carmarthen Lake Farms, Simcoe, Ontario

\$24 million Canadian (approximately \$24.3 million U.S.)

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Call Janice Brookes *

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Don't want to get lost in the crowd?

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Call Vicki Colicchia **

Golf Anyone - \$139,000



Backs onto golf course. Really nice one acre plus lot. Great neighbourhood, just a few minutes from Haliburton Village. Low maintenance 3 bedroom with recent upgrades

Call Lynn Craigmyle **

Large Home, Barn & Garage - \$224,000



This home really packs a punch! Dining room eat-in kitchen, large livingroom, plus a rec room. Outside offers almost 2 acres with mini barn with hydro & water, garage/workshop with hydro & a fenced in yard. Close to 3 lakes 2 golf courses and Algonquin Park

Call Mary Harnden *

Portage Lake - \$269,000



A true cottage awaits you with wood interior throughout on a level lot to launch your own boat with west exposure. Fully furnished with wood/propane stove and only 6 years old!

Call Dave Harris *

Country Farmhouse - \$575,000



140 acres w/ approx. 5500 ft. frontage on Hwy 48 across from Balsam Lake Provincial Park, zoned farming. This would be ideal location for golf course or many other commercial uses. Rolling hills & bush, 2 ponds w/ perpetual spring water. Updated farmhouse with separate 3 car garage and barn.

Call Lynne Hodgins *

Building Lot - \$21,500



Good building lot on year-round municipally plowed road. Close to Wilberforce Village and minutes to public access at Clement Lake

Call Larry Hussey *

5 Yr. Old R2000 Home - \$224,000



Custom built zero maintenance Royal Home. 1400+ sq. ft. Energy efficient R2000 on full walkout basement, partially finished basement, 1+1 bedrooms, 3 bathrms, open concept 34 acres. Commercial property with view of Elephant Lake, adjacent to Cedar Meadow golf course.

Call Darlene Reil *

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Maple Lake - \$369,000

3525 sq ft. 3 lg bdrms, den, 2 fam. rms, 2 baths, 1 jacuzzi & shower ensuite, solid oak kit, din room w/ greenhouse window effect & new skylights, laundry room, cold cellar, lg storage area. Possible apt. in lower level. New propane furnace, propane fireplace and stove, central vac, 200 amp service, artisan well, large decks front and back, attached dbl garage, & works shed fully insulated

Gloria Carnochan or Cindy Muenzel *



2 Acres - 3 Bedrooms - \$239,900

R2000 Royal "Manitou" home on 2 acres with access to Beach Lake close by. 3 bedroom home w/ sunken living room, open concept kitchen/living room, screened in porch off master bedroom. Included is a wood stove, HRV system, and propane furnace. Single car garage or workshop and storage shed

Gloria Carnochan or Cindy Muenzel *



Little Redstone Lake - \$465,000

Rare find one of a kind - 2.85 acre fairly level lot on Little Redstone part of a 3 lake chain. Underbrush has been cleared making a park like setting. Access is by a privately maintained municipal road allowance off of Kennisis Lake Rd. Driveway had been cleared. Hydro and telephone nearby. Walkout sand beach to deeper water

Gloria Carnochan or Cindy Muenzel *



Two Lots - Take Your Pick or Buy Both...

Well treed 2.75 acre building lot in area of new homes and cottages. Near public access to Basshaunt Lake. Close to Sir Sams ski hill. Adjacent 3 acre lot also for sale. Both Lots are only \$24,900.00 each - buy one or buy both!!

Gloria Carnochan or Cindy Muenzel *



16946 Hwy #35 - \$429,900

Prime direct waterfront estate/development lot with approx 1000 ft of frontage on prestigious Halls Lake. Easy access off Hwy #35 - 2 older cottages and derelict boathouse on the site. Expansive view - Clean shoreline - A Rare Opportunity!!

Anthony vanLieshout ***



91.5 Acres - \$385,000

Stunning country home on 91.5 acres. This property includes a 1 1/2 storey century home, a bank barn with stone foundation. A detached garage and a large commercial building (ideal for various business uses). This commercial building are located on 7.5 acres that is zoned Commercial Call for a detailed list of the many features included in this home.

Anthony vanLieshout ***



Perfect Building Lot - \$45,000

One fabulous building lot-private, cleared with the septic already installed! Comes with a shed. Short stroll from the public beach on Halls Lake - stone's throw away from the Kennisis River! Trust Schedule in LBO must accompany all Offers

Lindsay Elder **



Grass Lake - 5 Lake Chain - \$419,000

1000 sq ft 3 bdrm plus bunkie. Floor to ceiling stone fireplace, large 3-season sunroom, newer windows (2005), newer septic, drilled well and a very private hard sand beach. All within walking distance of Haliburton. Parking for 8 vehicles and you can comfortably sleep 10 people. A big lake view top it all off. Absolutely turn-key (including boat & motor) Lindsay Elder **



One of Only Two Properties on Stocked 80 Acre Lake - \$264,000

265 feet waterfront, one of only 2 properties on this stocked 80 acre Lake, the rest of the lake is surrounded by 3,000 acres of crown land. 2 bedroom home/cottage. Privated but not remote, only 4k to town.

David Lee *



Caning Lake - \$349,900

Canning Lake, nice lot, great view, large deck, spacious 3 bed cottage

David Lee *



Country Charm - \$209,900

Panabode log 1200 sq ft home w/ detached double garage - 2.5-acre lot only 6.5 km to Haliburton. Features pine floors, main flr laundry, eat-in country kitchen, spacious bedrooms w/built-in wall cabinets, charming wood air tight stove on stone hearth, nice covered front veranda, drilled well and full septic plus 4 appliances

Chris James *



Access to Head Lake - \$399,900

1728 sq ft home loaded in upgrades. Fully finished lower level, double attached garage, and boat slip on 5-lake chain. Features two fireplaces, custom kitchen, master bedrm 5 pce ensuite, main flr laundry, slate floor, central air & vac, all appliances, high speed internet plus bonus flat screen T.V

Marcia Prenger *



Kushog Lake - \$370,000

One of the best sand beaches on the lake. Clean and tidy 3 bedroom cottage with open concept living area. Beautiful stone fireplace and sliding door to large deck. Easy year round access off municipal road

Tom Gardner *



Davis Lake - \$424,900

Large family cottage with many upgrades and luxury features. New custom kitchen, new windows and doors, all new decking, easy year round access on popular Davis Lake. Gradual sloping lot with sand shore.

Tom Gardner *



Kushog Lake - \$434,000

Ideal for family with level lot and sandy water entry and a park like setting. Three bedroom Viceroy style cottage, large deck overlooking lake and easy year round access

Luba Cargill *



Town Home - \$299,000

Unique custom designed home and grounds with numerous features - main floor family room with fireplace, office/solarium, chef's kitchen, bedroom, bath and laundry. Second floor features hallway library/art gallery, three bedrooms, lots of built in cupboards, shelves and window seats. Call for your appointment to view

Luba Cargill *



Prime Commercial Lot - \$129,000

...in Minden's downtown, with the scenic Gull River (leads to Gull Lake), just across the street. Reopen the Beaver Theatre or convert the building/lot to your own requirements. Own a piece of Minden's heritage

Patti & Hal Johnson **



Gull Lake - \$349,900

Enjoy great swimming and big boating in this 3 bdr. cottage. Even has a fireplace for those cool winter evenings. Comes fully furnished...including a boat!

Patti & Hal Johnson **



One of a Kind Property - \$649,900

Have you ever wanted your own private retreat? Picture this...2000' of SW lake frontage bounded by rivers on both sides with 135 acres of mixed forest. All this & a sand beach! To get you started there is a huge garage with full loft above, covered picnic area & ample storage buildings

Patti & Hal Johnson **



Lakefront with Full Basement - \$459,000

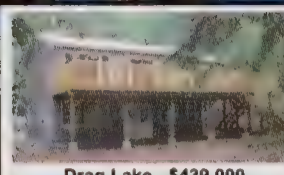
This photo is just one of the wonderful features of this property. Walkout to a stone patio, screened in porch, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, beautiful treed gently sloping lot with southern exposure. Enjoy life here in the warmer months or all year round!

Patti & Hal Johnson **



Moore Lake Chain - \$399,900

203 feet frontage on Moore Lake chain. South exposure with rare combination of sand beach and rock point. Two self contained fully serviced 3 bedroom cottages on property ideal for guest or rental income. Superb access within an easy 2 hour drive of the Toronto area. Flexible closing. Anthony van Lieshout ***



Drag Lake - \$439,000

Totally renovated 1570 sq. ft. open concept 4 bdrm. 2 bath, home/cottage on level lot on Drag Lake. Private gated driveway, clean sand shore. Extensive lakeside decking, maple hardwood floors, pine trim and doors throughout, pine kitchen, dining room walkout to deck, living room wood airtight on stone hearth and pine 4-season sunroom. Finished recreation & laundry rooms, high efficiency propane furnace, drilled well and eco-flow septic

Chris James *



Gull Lake - \$1,090,000 - Just Listed

Privacy Plus. Excellent 3 bedroom 4 season Panabode cottage with cathedral ceiling, hardwood floors, natural stone fireplace, sauna, hot tub, and much more on a natural rugged setting with 377 ft frontage on Gull Lake. Clean, deep, smooth shoreline, panoramic view. Call Al Mayo for appt. to view.

Al Mayo *



Marigold Lake - \$119,500

PRIVACY PLUS on this quiet lake with 167 feet frontage. Basic cottage with 2 bedrooms, finished in drywall, new kitchen, new 3 piece bath. Priced to sell. Enjoy this great get-away

Al Mayo *



Mountain Lake - \$497,000

3 plus 1 bdrm cottage/home on level lot with sand beach, cathedral ceiling in living room, dining room and kitchen, lake views from living room with patio doors to spacious deck, walkout from basement to lower patio area, extras include brick fireplace, airtight woodstove, central vacuum, drilled well,

Vince Jarvis *



4 Bdrm Log Home - \$298,500

True North' custom log home overlooking crown land. Close to Haliburton Insulated garage, newer custom pine kitchen w/ antique cook stove on granite hearth, main flr laundry, screen porch, huge master bdrm w/ ensuite/jacuzzi tub, front covered veranda, wired for backup generator plus loads more

Marcia Prenger *



12 Mile Lake - \$450,000

Year round winterized cottage on Twelve Mile Lake. Gentle sloping lot with fantastic view. Features large family room with airtight, heated water line, air conditioning, central vac, laundry room, mudroom & storage sheds.

Barry Warren *



Peach Lake - \$469,900

Gorgeous 3 BR+ den home/cottage on 2 acres w/ 300' shoreline on Peach Lk. Cedar walls to a vaulted ceiling, breathtaking sunset view of lake enhances the L.R. Propane and wood fireplaces with main floor laundry. Bunkie & metal storage shed.

Barry Warren *



Halls Lake - \$515,000

3+1 BR waterfront home/cottage. Open concept living. Huge master BR, main floor laundry, walk-out basement. Also has 2 BR bunkie for guests

Vince Jarvis *



Lees Road - \$139,900

Beautiful private well treed 1.13-acre lot with easy access off dead-end municipal year round road. Neat and clean 1120 sq ft 3 bedroom home on a full basement, features a stunning solid oak eat-in kitchen, main floor laundry, new forced air oil furnace with central air conditioning, drilled well and full septic, decking, shed, plus loads more

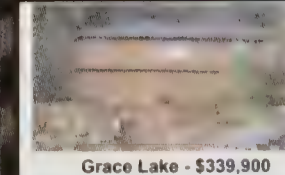
Chris James *



Wonderland Rd. - \$274,900

Custom built 'Timber Frame' home on 1.47 acre lot w/ expansive view overlooking the lake, & within 100 meters of Kashiagawigamog (S Lake Cham) lake access over open road allowance (access off driveway) #1282) Energy efficient insulated concrete form construction with lower level radiant floor heating (including garage). Cathedral beamed interior, features, pine ceilings & floors, fireplace, Maple kitchen, main floor laundry, large master bedroom w/ ensuite and walk-in closet, plus loads more

Marcia Prenger *



Grace Lake - \$339,900

Golden sandy beach shoreline mixed with large rock deep swimming. Freshly renovated 3-bedroom cottage from floor to ceiling including new windows and kitchen. Tastefully decorated coming fully furnished ready for you to move in and enjoy. Low maintenance property

Chris & Michelle Smolarz *



Loon Lake - \$359,900

Royal Home on a very private 30-acre lot with 401 ft frontage on Loon Lake access across road. Double attached insulated garage & large double detached garage. Manicured & landscaped setting with in ground sprinklers. Also mixed bush with trails, 200 amp service with a generator back up & H.R.V. filter system. 2 bedroom bunkie and Quonset hut.

Chris & Michelle Smolarz *



Percy Lake - \$729,900

A rare find one of a kind large very private level lot 1.8 acre point lot and cottage with 810' frontage on prestigious Percy Lake. Multiple exposure with a combination of deep rocky shoreline and sandy frontage. 3 bdrm open concept 1200 sq. ft. cottage with a unique fireplace and cedar siding. Towering mature trees on this natural lot also consisting of a bunkie, dry boathouse and your own boat launch

Chris & Michelle Smolarz *



\$184,900 \$249,000

Building Lots on Pelaw River

Fabulous large level waterfront building lot with 178 feet of deep clean frontage on Pelaw River. Excellent boating, fishing, and sandy shoreline swimming on this large prestigious three lake chain of Big & Little Redstone and Pelaw Lakes just a few lots away. Nice mature treed level lot with a corv. bunkie cabin with a covered deck

Chris & Michelle Smolarz *



Beech Lake - \$719,900

Luxury spacious home - features including hardwood floor, high cathedral pine ceilings w/ wooden beams, impressive stone fireplace. Well-manicured, level lot golden sand beach w/ southern exposure, and big lake view. Jimmy Connors tennis court

Chris & Michelle Smolarz *



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Baker's Secret

Tips for those who love to bake

Oops! I've Run Out Of...

Allspice... To make up 1 tablespoon of allspice, mix 1 ½ teaspoons of ground cloves with 1 ½ teaspoons of ground cinnamon.

Baking Powder... Use 1 teaspoon cream of tartar plus 1.2 teaspoon baking soda to replace 2 tablespoons baking powder.

Butter... In a pinch you can replace 1 cup of butter with 7/8 cup of ordinary kitchen lard.

Buttermilk... An equal amount of yogurt will replace buttermilk.

Celery... To fool your guest, replace celery in a salad with finely cut crisp cabbage. Sprinkle with a little celery salt.

Chicken... Short of chicken? Replace with cubed veal or pork. Believe it or not, tuna fish can also pass as chicken in a pinch!

Chocolate... Replace 1 square of chocolate with 3 tablespoons cocoa and 1 tablespoon shortening.

Chocolate Frosting... Combine sweetened condensed milk with powdered cocoa until frosting consistency is reached.

Cornstarch... Flour can be substituted for cornstarch if you double the quantity.

Cream, Sour... Should you need 1 cup of sour cream substitute a blend of ¾ cup sour milk and 1/3 cup butter.

More great substitute hints to come in the next issue....

CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTY

"Unto you is born this day in the city of David,
a saviour who is Christ the Lord". Luke 2:11

Special Events in December

9th Dramatic Presentation "A Visit from the Magi"

16th Musical Guests "The Bridge" from Bancroft

23rd "Christmas in the Country" featuring our Children's Program and special musical guests, The Guyatt Family, Halls Lake

30th Regular Contemporary Service

*May you and your family experience the
love, joy, and peace that Jesus came
to bring to those who would receive Him.*



**Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year**

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**Chateau
Woodland
Memoirs**

New Booklet Tells History of Exclusive Lodge from 1939-96

In this age of political correctness, the word *inclusive* illustrates much of what the movement is all about. Conversely the word *exclusive* very often stands for what the movement disagrees with. Far be it from me to make a value judgment in this publication of the modern employment of these two words; however the very exclusiveness of one establishment in our county has helped to make it what it was, and still is today. And make no mistake about it Chateau Woodland was, and still is, an exclusive lodge. Its very exclusiveness has kept it isolated as a facility. So much so, that not a great many local people know much about it, and even fewer have been inside.

I count myself as one of the lucky ones for I have been inside Chateau Woodland. I'm lucky inasmuch as to go inside the main facility is to immediately step back in time to a day when times were simpler, and a family stay-over did not include the winter months.

You see, the lodge is not insulated. That in itself sets it apart. But more than that the ambience is unlike anything I have ever encountered in my 40 years of Highlands experiences. The building is wooden in structure, and the main dining and ballroom area constitutes one huge room under a high-peaked roof with many exposed beams. Numerous windows far below the peak and beams, work with the emitted light and dark wood to remind you of a historic set from a period movie. The word impressive comes easily to mind, and you can't help thinking of the potential for such a room. It's not that the room and the lodge haven't been used to good effect over the years, and in fact my lone visit some ten years ago, was to hear a good blues band. The music was strangely effective in the cavernous space. But it's the almost cathedral-like space which will always dominate, no matter the event within its walls.

Pat Maulson, a local Minden resident knows a great deal more about Chateau Woodland. Pat lives with her husband Don on Water Street in Minden. They moved up permanently in 2004 from St Catharines, but they are intimate with the Chateau, as they have a cottage on the site, which is now called the Chateau Woodland Lakeside Community club. It's basically constructed as a co-operative, with leases on the 55 cabins renewable on a yearly basis. "Basically you're buying the right to lease the cabin," states Pat, "and the Chateau was sold in 1996 to the company which now owns it."

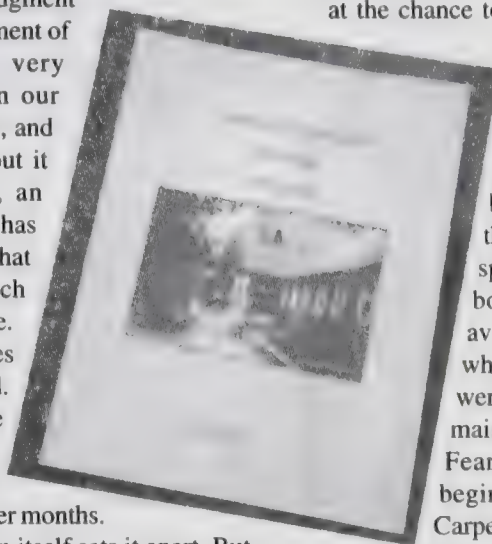
Pat, a former buyer for Eaton's, also helped out at Don's chartered accountant business in St Catharines until their retirement in 2000. An artist who works in mixed media, Pat has been a student at the School of the Arts for a number of years, and she and Don used to

rent a cabin at the Chateau from a friend. They stayed at the cabin during the months that she was taking classes. "We'd spend our whole summers there." When a cabin came up for lease they jumped at the chance to continue their relationship with the Chateau and the individuals and families they had met there over the years.

"There's spirituality at Chateau Woodland," says Pat. "There's a special connection here, and that intrigued me. I think the spirituality is based in the natural state (of the grounds and the buildings), it's not over commercialized." This special connection is what led Pat to produce the booklet on the lodge. There was not a lot of available research so Pat "focused on the people who knew the property intimately. For this she went to local people "like Roy Bates who worked in maintaining the property for 37 years, and Anne Fearrey, who worked at the property from the beginning in 1940." She also talked to "Conrad Carpenter, whose family has been coming up to the Chateau from Ohio, for four generations."

"Many cabin owners came, and still come, from the Northern States," Pat states. "Mr. W. Salter owned the property in the 1920's and built a place called Dunworkin Park and Cabins. He was a

Memoirs cont'd... pg. 32...



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Chateau Woodland Memoirs

... from pg. 31

Jehovah's Witness and the property early on was used as a Jehovah's Witness camp, and hunting camp. In 1939 Mr Salter approached Elwood Reeve and John Oldfield, both from Ohio. He told them of his dream to erect a lodge on the site. Each of the two Ohio natives subsequently put in \$20,000 and that was the start of the partnership. The establishment opened in 1940 as a summer-time lodge."

"People back then didn't come up in the winter," Pat Maulson informs me. "Shortly after the lodge was built about 60 cabins were built. Later on some of the cabins were joined to form one cabin, in order to accommodate larger families, so that now there are 55 cabins on the property. "Guests were picked up at the train station and delivered to the front door. There was a Friday tourist train, because the roads were not nearly as good as they are now.



When the guests arrived at the lodge they were greeted by a doorman," she says. "In the years following its completion the Chateau Woodland was the most exclusive lodge in the area."

Mr and Mrs Salter ran the lodge until they sold it in 1971 to Humphrey Sarkisian and his sister Anne Drover, who then ran it until 1996. They did a lot of upgrading to the pool, and the tennis and badminton courts.

The lodge was always intended as an exclusive, family oriented resort, with many of the families coming year after year from the United States. At one time locals were strictly forbidden to attend events held in the lodge. Pat tells some amusing stories of local lads who, by hook and by crook, managed to escape detection and attend some of the dances.

"The lodge is situated on 35 acres along South Kashagawigamog Lake road, approximately 2 miles from town," Pat recalls from her

research, "and there's 1400 feet of shoreline along the lake. There used to be billboards along highway 35 announcing how many more miles to Chateau Woodland. "I just couldn't let it die," she states nostalgically and by way of further explaining her desire to write the booklet. "They were simple, beautiful times. They had dances in the 50's with big bands, and it was considered very exclusive. People just kept

going back, and it became a generational thing."

Pat Maulsons booklet Chateau Woodland Memoirs 1939-1996 is a handsome publication, with images in black and white. Some of the chapter headings include 'In the Beginning,' 'Dining Room,' 'Staff,' 'Activities,' 'Cottages,' and 'New Ownership Changes 1971-1996.' When asked what she learned in the process of compiling and publishing the information, Pat says: "it's given me a deeper appreciation of the property, its place in the community, and peoples lives. It also surprised me how open people could be about their stories. Many people came forward, and I was also able to obtain images from Gamble's antiques; the Haliburton Museum supplied me with some old ads. Lisa Robertson from Haliburton gave me stories, and she helped me get some more info from Ebay."

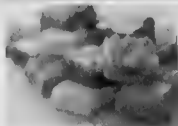
"Did you know that there was a movie shot at the Chateau? Pat inquires. "It was called 'Looking For Miracles, and it was shot at the lodge in 1989.' It was set in the depression era, and it was about a young man who goes to camp to earn money for his education. It had a strong sense of family values and this reflected the similar values of Chateau Woodland."

Chateau Woodland may still be exclusive, but strong family values are something we can all benefit from. Those who are interested in history will also benefit by obtaining a copy of Pat Maluson's booklet Chateau Woodland Memoirs 1939-1996. For \$20 (\$5 extra for shipping), you can obtain a copy from the Haliburton Museum and Undercover Books in Haliburton, or from the Storeroom Natural Foods in Minden. For more information call Pat Maulson at (705) 286-6042.

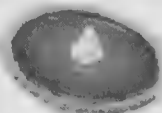
Pictured: Pat Maulson and her booklet on Chateau Woodland; The booklet in close-up; Exterior Chateau Woodland

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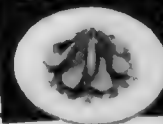
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Highlands Summer Festival Passes A Perfect Christmas Gift

See What's Coming in '08

Gift Idea #1 – why not buy that someone special (even if that someone special is yourself) Season passes to the 2008 Highlands Summer Festival season featuring a fantastic lineup of live performance plays you won't want to miss. Passes are now available at Kitchens Etc. in Haliburton, The Storeroom in Minden or through the box office at 457-9933.

Passes to any four of the company's seven dramatic presentations and concerts, are available for \$80. Patrons can add to the pass to include other productions in the schedule at a cost of \$20 per show. This is a saving of 20%. Regular ticket price is \$25. This special offer is available until January 15, 2008. The pass can include any of the following seven productions planned for the 2008 season ... Here is the line-up for the coming season:

The Foreigner

The setting, a fishing lodge in rural Georgia. A British demolition expert arrives with a friend, a pathologically shy young man named Charlie, who is overcome with fear of making conversation with strangers. So everyone is told that Charlie is from an exotic foreign country and speaks no English. Once his friend leaves on business, the fun really begins, as Charlie, *The Foreigner*, overhears more than he should. What he hears fuels the nonstop hilarity of the play and sets up the wildly funny climax in which things go uproariously awry for the "bad guys," and the "good guys" emerge triumphant.

Under The Influence

The musical tradition at Highlands Summer Festival continues this year with the return of flautist Tom Regina and pianist and singer Lauren McInnes to the Festival stage. They will be joined by harpist Dawna Coleman, who added so much musically to last season's musical production of *The Fantasticks*. As they weave their magic, you will be *Under the Influence* with music selections from classical to contemporary. These three concerts are sure to delight and entertain.

Trying

A young Canadian from the prairies finds herself next in a long series of secretaries to Francis Biddle, the crusty former Attorney General under Roosevelt and a Nuremberg judge. Based on the author's personal experience, the play is set in 1967, during the last year of Biddle's life and pits the elderly politico, who knows his time is limited, against a young woman, eager to do her best, but unwilling to be cowed by Biddle's cantankerous attitude. The intersection of American and Canadian perspectives and of youth and age, provides ample material for the author to explore the relationship from a variety of perspectives. The author of *Trying*, Glass has become one of Canada's most respected playwrights. Directed by Scot Denton.

Double Trouble

Melissa Stephens is back, in a show developed by Artistic Producer Scot Denton, and she has brought two young singers with her...one from the world of Opera and the other from the bright lights of Broadway. Their task is to compare and contrast the two musical styles to Melissa's accompaniment. Along the way the three musicians illustrate the finer points of each genre and discover there isn't much difference between the two after all. Three musicians, three concerts, three great evenings of entertainment.

Deathtrap

Comfortably ensconced in his charming Connecticut home, Sidney Bruhl, a successful writer of thrillers, is struggling to overcome a "dry" spell. A possible break in his fortunes occurs when he receives a script from a student he met in a seminar at a nearby college. He recognizes the thriller, *Deathtrap*, as a potential Broadway hit. Sidney's plan is to

offer a collaboration to the student, an idea which the younger man quickly accepts. It is then the plot begins to twist and turn with devilish cleverness, and with such an abundance of thrills and laughter, that audiences will be held enthralled until the final, startling moments. By the author of *Rosemary's Baby*, *The Boys From Brazil* and the *Stepford Wives*.

Opera Excerpts Concert

The participants in this season's Highlands Opera Studio present an evening of their favourites from best-loved operas of the world. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear familiar arias, duets, choruses and more....all in one evening. The Excerpts Concert is a single event presentation and tickets will sell quickly. Order yours now to ensure you don't miss it.

Three Fantastic Nights of Opera

The Highlands Opera Studio is back after its successful introduction into the Highlands Summer Festival schedule last year. Canadian Tenor Richard Margison and Opera Director Valerie Kuinka lead an outstanding faculty as aspiring opera singers come to the Highlands for three weeks of intensive training. In the end, to showcase their talents, they will present comedic operas August 25, 27 and 29. (The opera selection will depend on the ranges of those attending the Opera Studio and therefore will be announced later in the season. Also, watch for Opera Master Classes, scheduled for August 8 and 9 at the Minden United Church. Note the Master Classes are not available through season passes.)

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After the concert, you're invited to a Potluck Dinner
prepared by Parishioners of St. Georges.

Zoe Chilco: Warm In A Cool Place

by George Farrell

I was delighted when the boss asked me to write a piece on Zoe. She's a wonderfully warm person, a versatile song stylist, and a gifted writer of lyrics. If you love music you owe it to yourself to see one of her performances this summer. I've known her quite a while now, and we have several musician friends in common in Toronto, though Zoe and I never crossed paths until we met each other in the Highlands.

I can't claim really to have written this piece. The story was sent to me via email from Toronto, where Zoe spends her winters. I'd asked her to respond to questions I'd sent her. The idea was to write my own story from her answers. What she sent however was written in such a refreshing manner that I thought it best left untouched. So, in her own words, here's Zoe.

Some History

I was born roughly a thousand years ago in Toronto, on Jarvis street, a dubious-sounding distinction now, but back then, there were some huge and very expensive mansions that dated back to the 1800's (a few remain now). The one I was born in had belonged to a few well-known and well-heeled families, among them Walter Massey (of the family that founded the Massey Harris companies, and also spawned the famous Canadian actor). He lived there with his wife Susan Denton for many years before he died and she sold it. eventually, it was bought by some nuns who ran the St. Mary's hospital out of it before they too moved on to build the now-famous Scarborough general hospital (where co-incidentally I gave birth to my son). The gorgeous mansion (and what I consider to be my birthright home) was torn down, and the corner of Isabella and Jarvis streets now has an apartment building called Massey house. I tried to get into it last year when I was looking for something for the winter, (I thought: hey, I know! I'll die where I was born - never wanting to move again) but I couldn't get in, and ended up taking a very tiny place in the east end. Imagine my spooked-out response when I walked in the park which borders my building and discovered that it was the location of the farm that Walter and Susan Massey built and ran. The park is called Dentonia Park after her maiden name. So I just take for my own that I must have been part of that illustrious family for my destiny to be so connected. Am I crazy?

After my birth we lived around Danforth and Pape briefly, and then moved to the dufferin and eglinton area until I was almost eight. then, since my parents kept on having more kids, we had to move to the east end - Lawrence and Victoria park, specifically, and that is where I was staying until last year when we sold the house after my father's death, and hence the search for some lodgings for my forays to the city.

I never married (probably because of the above number of kids (8) and domesticity - I looked older at twelve than I did at 35), but as mentioned above I did have a child (it was the 60's). Then, despite all the crap and attitude of the world, I brought him up (the best thing I ever did) and now he is a wonderful person and I have two grandchildren - a boy, 7, and a girl, 2.

Music Background

Music always appealed to me - I remember playing old 78's over and over again, and then my father's family in particular (Italian) used to like to sing when they got together; my father himself used to play a lot of instruments by ear, but didn't ever teach us or play with us. I took some piano lessons when I was 11 and for 3 more years, and could play fairly

well, but I was crippled socially and emotionally, so quit when I was forced into 'recitals'. I left music for many years and only started up again when I was working in my son's school library where there was a piano. I started fooling around again, and then decided to rent one for myself, revisiting some old material, and then writing songs myself. When I joined a song circle of music lovers who got together just to sing and play, I had a chance to sing some of my stuff and got a lot of support. Then I moved up to Haliburton and 3 months later met Gord Kidd who was looking for a singer. I stayed with his band for over five years, and that really was the start of my performance career.

In the meantime, I kept on writing stuff, and started up with some blues musicians from Toronto. I played with them for a couple of years, recorded a couple of my tunes, then went all out and recorded a whole collection in the spring of 1998 - my first product - it was a cassette of originals and pretty good, if I do say so myself.

From then, I just kept on going - started up my own band 1999 till 2005 and also did three more collections of tunes. Since 2005, I've been playing with pick-up musicians and I've also completed another cd - 'warm in a cool place'. Right now, I'm recording the blues tunes for the next cd - 'one-woman blues'.

In the Highlands

First came to the highlands in 1981 - a friend of mine was working at chateau woodland and I visited. He eventually moved up here and was the connection

for the property that I bought in Carnarvon. That was in 1988; I had my house built in the summer of 1990, and moved out of my Toronto apartment in May, 1991.

A rough beginning (the house still isn't finished) and certainly, culture shock. I began the fundraising concerts to get a women's shelter built right away in the fall of '91, really as a means of survival for myself. There wasn't any music or hanging out places in Haliburton at the time. I discovered a lot of musical people here, just no social outlets.

Through the concerts I organized, I became involved with the committee to get the women's emergency house built; then, when it was closed, I was on the committee to get something else to supply emergency services - the HERS committee. also got involved right away with the cafe that Barry Hayward and Rhonda started up in '95 - it was so wonderful to finally have a place where people could get together to share music. That was the beginning of the folk society. the frost centre incident got me hopping and involved again, after I'd given up reading the newspapers because I got too angry at a lot of 'small town' thinking that I saw again and again; I also have been a supporter of, if not an active member of Environment Haliburton; and of course I was part of canoe radio when it started on air - back in 2003; the first 'blue canoe' was in august of that year.

For the last two summers I have been booking the musicians and doing posters and ads for the sugar shack series at wintergreen pancake barn. And since 2004, I've had my annual jazz night with the fabulous and well-known musician's norm amadio and jack mcfadden. We've had a different location every year, which is fun.

I think my strongest point musically is my voice, although I also think I've written some good songs, which unlike a lot of songwriters' material,



Zoe cont'd... pg. 35...

Zoe cont'd...

... from pg. 34

are not all the same. There's a lot of variety in my styles and rhythms. I really like music the best when I'm performing live with other musicians and it really starts to happen - connecting with the audience and really feeling some energy moving around.

And In Toronto

One of my most memorable venues was at a bar in Toronto which wasn't even a gig - in fact it was before I had started performing solo or with my band. Chris Whiteley, the well-known musician, used to invite me up to sing a song or two at his regular gig and on that night, I had been writing out a the chords of a song I had just written to show another musician friend that I was sitting with. Chris happened by in the break and said: "oh, a new song, Zoe?" I said yes and he immediately said, "We'll do it". I was totally unprepared and the song was written out crudely on the place mat for the restaurant; plus, Chris had a bunch of big-name guest instrumentalists who were playing with him that night. The stage was just a corner of the room and so we all had to line up in a row in front of the rhythm section, with me in the middle on vocals and holding the place mat for everyone to see. In the middle of my tune, we were rocking along, and as I looked to my left and right and listened to the 'wall of sound' that had become my song, I thought: 'this is amazing!' It was a wonderful introduction to that song and that night remains a huge high. Other memorable nights were once at Chicago's on Queen St. with my band when I suddenly realized all of us were in 'the zone' - just really into the music and flying, and of course, the audience is with you then too. In Haliburton, there was the first jazz show I did with Norm and Jack - that was a wonderful thrill for me - a fun and moving night, again with an audience that was really into the music; and just last summer at the gull river, I had the same sudden awareness in the middle of the gig, that everything felt and sounded great and even the sky and sunset were participating in the glory.

Where The Music Comes From

My music is personal: I write from my emotions about things or people in my life. Sometimes it's love, sometimes it's politics, sometimes it's just about enjoying and appreciating life. I use the roots of blues and jazz because that's what I listen to most, although I'm also influenced by the old standards that I heard when I was very young (but I think they came from the same roots). Here and there I have a folkier song, and I have at least one country and one rock tune, but I like variety, and blues and jazz have many possibilities: forms and moods that allow for a lot of improvisation when musicians record them or play with me. I write the

songs fairly quickly, because the feelings propel me to get it all out, but sometimes I have a song in rough for quite a while before I settle on the final melody and structure. Usually, however, it all comes at once; the melody and tempo are part of the feeling.

the

shows I have done in the Highlands have been with great musicians accompanying me (Suzie Vinnick and Lorraine Ingle at the Chateau Woodland), or with my band coming up here, or the jazz shows when I consistently use Norm Amadio and Jack Mcfadden - for the obvious reason that they are marvelous, fun, talented, and great to work with.

In the last couple of years, for the sugar shack, I've been calling on musicians that I know in Toronto to come up. They are always thrilled to get out of the city and have a gig in such a supportive, beautiful and acoustically balanced room. And they get paid. A lot of people are interested in being part of that. Artists appreciate an audience that is appreciative, so it's all good.

Making Ends Meet

I have always traveled back and forth to Toronto; my family is still there, as well as a lot of friends, and of course there's the music and networking, not to mention the food (a gazillion cultures). It's hard to be away from my home and my friends up here, but in winter I don't miss the icy roads and early dark (although, contrarily, sometimes I long for that snug security). But I need money, since I like to eat a lot,

Zoe cont'd... pg. 36...



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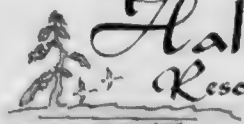
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Zoe New CD Now Available Locally

... from pg. 35

record a lot, and ride my bike and swim (WHEN is Haliburton going to get a public pool?!). So besides doing some massage therapy, which I also do in Haliburton, I earn some money by supply teaching with the Toronto School Board. Back when I graduated from the University of Toronto, I was a French teacher, so here I am again, trying to ignore all the chaos of the classroom and instill some kind of appreciation, for the music of language – a challenge, believe me.

What's New

What's new for me these days is a course I took here in the city called the Business of Art – I'm supposed to be writing a business plan right now for my artistic endeavours in order to enable me to actually - possibly – make a living at what I love to do. I'm also trying to get my website up to date and learn how to administer it myself – i.e. Learn html and all that language; learn how to improvise more on the piano; and get my music on line more than it is now. In January, I'm very excited to be going out to the Banff Centre – I have a short residency there in the music program

to develop a project. I can't believe it, but it's true!!

I'm hoping that all of these efforts will get my music out to a wider audience; I've had such a good response from people who have heard it, internationally as well as locally, and it's a pity that more people don't know about it because I don't have the money or big machine behind me to promote it properly. I really want some famous person to record one of my tunes; that would be a bonus – but they've got to hear it first. But I also want to keep playing, composing, and recording; I want to have fun with music, that's really the whole point. If it's not fun, then it doesn't really reflect or engage me. I doubt anyone else would be interested either.

Talent In the Highlands

There is so much talent in the Highlands – I was aware of that as soon as I arrived, as I mentioned in talking about the fund raising concerts. And now the talent seems to be burgeoning and blooming everywhere. I've seen and heard young people who just amaze me. To be doing music that early in life (I envy them) is fantastic; there are so many avenues and opportunities and just simply enjoyment to be had. It's a lifelong interest and investment that enriches any life. My advice to anyone studying music is very simple: from a musician I knew many years ago who told me "know your instrument", and from a colleague singing and playing now who said "just keep on doing it". Basically, technique and persistence, but because my instrument is my voice and because I have always been involved in whole body health, I would add, "make sure you're all there, relaxed, free, and sincerely involving yourself with others in an open and satisfying way". The voice is the first instrument, and it's you. Let your voice be heard – you have to come through any instrument you play.

The New CD

I have completed five collections of original songs: one cassette and four CD's. The latest one is called 'Warm in a Cool Place', and it's more on the jazzy side. I had been going to do another double collection, as I did for 'Up the Highway', but since I had all the jazz tunes done, I thought I should just get it out there while I continue on the recording sessions for the blues tunes. Warm/Cool has 12 twelve songs recorded in three different sessions, so I have a lot of varied backup, giving a slightly different take and flavour to the material. The title track was inspired by a walk I took back in March of 2006; I had just recovered from a bout of some kind of evil malady, which had come on around Christmas after my father's death. On the day of the walk I was feeling good again and appreciating not only that, but also the day, the place, and a sense of not needing to be something that I'm not. (News to me!). It was an early warm spring day and felt like a new start, especially after my sickness. The other tunes were written mostly after that; there is a couple of older ones, and one about the family house that has since been sold (the pink room). Again, all the songs come from my emotional reactions to what's going on in and around my life.

Where It's Available

The CD is available in Haliburton at Canoe Radio, in Minden at Golden Stationers and Whispers North, and if there are any other county locations that would like to sell it, please let me know.

If you want to find out more about Zoe Chilco and her music you can visit her website at www.zoechilco.ca or drop her a line at fumblingforchange@hotmail.com.

Pictured: Zoe and the Cover of New CD, Warm In A Cool Place

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What's Happening Locally

Karaoke Contest at The Northwood Inn

So – You Think You Can Sing?? That's what the folks at the Northwood Inn in Haliburton want to know. And they've got \$1,500 waiting to be put into the hands of those who can sing Karaoke really well.

Contest rules are available at the Northwood, but basically there will be two Karaoke sessions. One from now until Dec 20th and one in the New Year until March 20th. Every Thursday from 9pm till close, contestants take the stage. Each week there will be a first, second and third winner. These winners are kept on record until the 20th when the persons with the most "wins" will compete for \$500. The second session repeats in the New Year and March 20th crowns a second winner \$500. Then, on March 27th the grand finale will pit Session 1 winner against Session 2 winner for an additional \$500, putting a total of \$1,000 into the pockets of Haliburton County's best Karaoke singer. Just like Canadian Idol in Haliburton!

The Northwood Inn has over 6,000 Karaoke tunes to choose from and as owner Bonnie Maxwell says, "Some people have chosen to bring their own Karaoke too, and usually we can accommodate that if it's in the correct format."

While at the Northwood, be sure to check out a bite to eat as they serve up some great pub-style food including items such as wings and burgers. Also be sure to watch as the Inn is home to some great live entertainment on weekends including Country bands and rock and roll bands. "We've got some surprises coming up in the New Year as well," says Bonnie. "It's interesting to see different crowds coming out all the time. We're starting to see more Baby-Boomers coming out and that's a wonderful thing."

For more information on the "So You Think You Can Sing" Karaoke contest, or upcoming live entertainment at the Northwood Inn contact Bonnie or Melanie at 457-1710. Now get up and sing!

More Music Around The County

Friday December 7 - Open Stage at the Hair Lounge in Carnarvon at 8:00

Saturday December 8 - The Haliburton County Folk Society is pleased to present **Bob Snider and Thom Lambert in concert** on Saturday December 8, 8:00pm at Tracey's Bar and Grill. This is another one of several great folk music concerts coming to Haliburton County over the next few months. Folk music embraces a wide range of music - folk, jazz, blues, rock, and country. The performers are often not top 40 or household names but consistently are very talented and give amazing performances.

You won't be disappointed. You may however be one of those people who are reluctant to pay money to hear someone whose name you don't know. The Haliburton County Folk Society is offering a 100% guarantee for their upcoming concerts. The Folk Society will return 100% of the cost of your ticket if you are not satisfied with the concert. Tickets are \$15 each including GST. Tickets can be purchased at York St Internet

Café, 28 York St in Haliburton or in Minden at Golden Stationers 108 Main St (Bobcaygeon Road). For more information on Bob Snider see www.bobsnider.ca

Come and listen to great music, risk free. Please watch for promotions for upcoming concerts offered by the Haliburton County Folk Society, the Hair Lounge, the Art Hive, and others.

Saturday December 8 – 'Dala' at the Hair Lounge in Carnarvon at 8 p.m. With special gues Matt Barbeau. Tickets \$20 each. For more info on Dala see www.dalagirls.com. For reservations call 457-7587 or 489-1963

Sunday December 9 – Johnny Burke, Steve Piticco and Todd Noland 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the house of Johnny and Teresa. Ticket are \$20 each. Call 455-9177. All seats are reserved.

Saturday December 15 – Open Stage at the York Street Internet Café in Haliburton – starting at 8 p.m.

Friday January 25 – Jory Nash and Buddy Mondlock – 8 p.m. at the Haliburton County Museum in Haliburton. 8 p.m. Tickets \$15 including GST. For more info on Jory and Buddy see www.jornash.com and www.buddymondlock.com

Saturday January 26 - Don Ross and Brooke Miller at teh Hair Lounge in Carnarvon at 8 p.m. Tickets \$25.

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by Brenda Peddigrew

The Hunger for Light

A few days after Hallowe'en I was driving east to Haliburton along Highway 118 in early evening when my eyes were drawn to approaching lights. I could hardly believe my eyes. They were Christmas lights, and it was only November 3. The whole house was outlined, as well as a big candle and several smaller Christmas forms. That very evening, the clocks were going back, giving us an extra hour as well as earlier dark evenings. Why were Christmas lights out so early? I wondered. It sent me careening into thinking about light.

This is my favorite time of year. I love the long, dark evenings. Over many years I've noticed that this is when I'm most creative, swirling with ideas and time to carry them out. Even when I'm busy, the ideas keep coming at this time of year. As darkness increases, I seem to be pulled deeper into a swirling cauldron of color and expression, as if the darkness were the source of it. I also love Christmas, and it's about our capacity to put light into darkness, and the colors that explode at this time of year.

But the woods and the rivers and the lakes...they stay in the darkness, moon and stars their only light. Trees lose all color, and walking in November offers high contrast from walking in October. On the other hand, a different quality of the woods becomes visible when all the leaves are gone. You can see farther; it has its own stark and spare beauty as the earth pulls all her life's blood inside against the cold.

What is it with us humans? I wonder. Are we addicted to light, afraid without it? Or perhaps it is that we make light just because we can, just because it gives us a sense of power, of being in charge. Are we still afraid of the dark? What about silence and stillness? Everyone might have a different answer to those questions, and there might be others I haven't even thought to ask.

The hunger for light is most evident at this time of year. Colors and shapes light up our darkness as at no other time. Might we be following the ancient instincts of ancestors, who never quite trusted that the sun would return? Might we be running from the original creative expression that darkness and stillness offer us? Or perhaps we simply (as I suspect is true for more of us than we think) love the shoots of joy that light in darkness evoke, even in the silly Santa shapes and cute angels and smiling snowmen. Deep in the darkness, light awaits, and deep in the light, darkness dwells. Without one, there is no other.

try this: as you go through the holidays, notice your inner responses to light and dark...let them tell you something about yourself.

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Minden Ontario Early Years Centre. Come join us in the month of December as we make Christmas crafts, letters to Santa, homemade gifts and sing Christmas songs. We are open Mon to Thurs from 9:30 to 1:00.

Minden Ontario Early Years Centre. Our annual Christmas party and potluck lunch to be held on Tuesday December 18th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be cookie decorating, a Christmas music circle and a special visit from Santa Claus at 11:30. Please bring a wrapped book for your child to receive from Santa. We ask that you sign up for the party by the Dec. 13 at the centre or 286-1770.

Did you know there is a new skating program at the Minden Arena? Free Moms and Tots skating on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 12:00. Come and enjoy skating with your child.

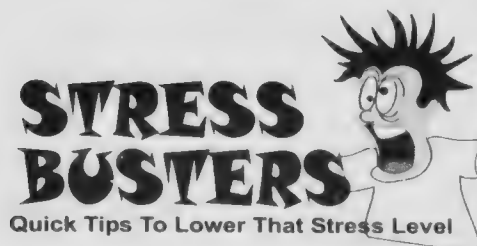
Wilberforce Play and Learn with the OEYC Mobile. Our last visit of the year will be on **December 20** when we will have a **Christmas party at the Lloyd Watson Centre**. We will be decorating reindeer cookies, singing Christmas songs and having a special scavenger hunt. Please let Julie know if you are attending at 286-1770 or leave a message at 457-2989.

No Need To Eat Alone at Christmas...

A Mission Of Love III

A delicious complimentary Traditional Turkey Dinner for those alone at Christmas will be held Christmas Day starting at 4:00 pm with Eggnog and Carols followed by dinner at 5:00 p.m. If you would like to attend, please call Lakeside Baptist and ask for Dale or Cathy Dovell at 447-2319.

There is no reason to spend Christmas alone this year. Enjoy both the great meal and wonderful company being offered by the Lakeside Baptist Church located at 9 Park Street, Haliburton.



Don't Obsess Over Food

A study of 62 women, ages 20 to 35, at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver found that those who worried constantly about how much food they ate at every meal absorbed far less calcium into their bones, putting them at higher risk for developing osteoporosis. Stress hinders the absorption of calcium, so you're not doing your body any favor by being constantly concerned about every mouthful of food you're taking in. Instead, if weight is a concern, talk with a nutritionist to learn what foods you can enjoy, in moderate portions, without worry. If you find you still can't stop obsessive worrying about food, seek the help of a competent eating-disorder specialist.



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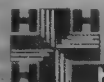
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Who Dun-it?

THE CASE OF THE THREE SANTAS

The Christmas season in the small New England town of Baskerville was, as always, strictly traditional.

Amateur choirs held public singings of Handel's "Messiah" oratorio. The local churches planned pageants and services for Christmas Eve. And the annual Community Carol Sing around the decorated Christmas tree on the town square was followed by a special shopping night, when the stores on Main Street were kept open all evening for late-season shoppers.

It was Friday, December 17. A few inches of snow lay on the ground, just enough to highlight the season without overly inconveniencing drivers or shovelers. By seven-thirty, the carol sing was over and Main Street, its lamps festooned with white-lighted wreaths, was crowded with shoppers and a few stubborn knots of carolers.

Also abroad were three Santa Clauses, hired for the evening by the local Chamber of Commerce to pass out candy to children, and to inspire the shoppers by doing some shopping themselves.

Jacqueline Wright, the owner of The Wright Antiques, was busily waiting on customers in her small but crowded shop when a Santa appeared before her.



"A merry Christmas, my dear!" said Santa in an appropriately jolly voice. "Could you possibly let poor Santa use your bathroom a moment?" Wright smiled and nodded toward an open doorway in the back. "Right through there, Santa."

"Thank you! There'll be no coal in YOUR stocking." He disappeared in back.

Wright was so occupied with customers that she hardly noticed when, after several minutes, a flush sounded and Santa hurried out of the shop. Less than ten minutes later, she went to her office in back to get more cash for her register.

Thomas P. Stanwick, carrying a bag of parcels, entered the shop just as Wright rushed out from the back.

"Tom!" she cried. "Someone's stolen the cash from my desk!"

Stanwick arched his eyebrows. "When?"

"Just now! It was there not a quarter of an hour ago!"

"Did you see anyone go back there?"

"Well....yes. Santa Claus."

"Santa Claus." A smile played on Stanwick's lips.

"You know....someone dressed as Santa Claus. I let him go back there to use the bathroom. You have to pass the office to get to the bathroom, and I'm so busy with my assistant away this evening, and....anyway, he left just a few minutes ago!"

"All right, Jacqueline. Calm down. Ask the customers who are here now to remain. I'll take a quick look in

back."

Stanwick went into the back hallway and checked the office. On the desk were some piles of paper, an adding machine, a tray of coins, and a few small bills. The office could be entered only by the one doorway. Stanwick glanced in the small bathroom further down the hall, returned to the front of the shop, and went outside to find Chief Ryan.

Within twenty minutes, Ryan had questioned Wright, summoned his deputy, and had his deputy gather the three identically disguised Santas in the shop.

"Gentlemen," drawled the chief, "some cash was stolen earlier this evening from the office in the back of this shop by someone dressed as Santa Claus. Maybe you could each tell me where you were about forty minutes ago, and whether you've been in this shop this evening."

"I'm Bob Carruthers," said the first Santa. "I've been up at the other end of Main Street all evening."

"I was up that way earlier, and didn't notice you," said Stanwick.

"I was in and out of the shops."

"My name is Woodley, Jack Woodley," said the second Santa. "I've been mostly on the street, though I briefly stopped in the bookshop. Not in here, though. I took care of my bathroom needs before suiting up!"

"Do you live nearby?" asked the chief.

"Just a few blocks away."

Ryan nodded to the third Santa.

"I'm Joe Williamson," the last Santa said. "I've been mostly up and down the street, though I did buy a drill at Harrigan's Hardware. Passed out candy to the kids, of course. I went by here once, but didn't come in."

"May I see the drill?" asked Ryan.

"Uh, no. I gave it to my wife a little while ago, to take to the car."

"Very well." Ryan folded his arms. "I know we may be looking for a fourth Santa here, but I'd like your permission to search each of you."

"That may not be necessary, Bill," said Stanwick. He stepped forward and put his hand on the shoulder of one of the Santas. "I think this is the jolly old elf you want to talk to."

WHICH SANTA WAS THE THIEF? HOW DID STANWICK KNOW?

See solution on pg. 53...

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Ghost Stories

Scary Tales

The following is a fun little column for those who like ghost stories... Whether these are true or not we don't know, but they are stories told by those who believe they saw real ghosts!! If anything, they do make for interesting little stories... enjoy...



Toys Are Us

This modern toy store was built in 1970 and has been haunted ever since.

Employees first thought someone was scattering roller skates and books throughout the aisles as a practical joke, but when they started hearing voices and being touched by phantom hands, they asked manager Judy Jackson for help. She discovered that customers had also been reporting strange things: faucets that turned themselves on after being turned off, and invisible hands tapping their shoulders or stroking their hair.

Assistant Store Director Jeff Linden was having a hard time with employees who were frightened to go in some areas of the store alone. According to some workers, objects were flying twenty feet through the air and hitting them.

Finally, psychic Sylvia Brown was called in to investigate. The medium contacted a presence by the name of Johnny Johnson, who worked on a ranch that had existed on the site of the store.

She discovered that Johnny was mentally impaired and came to be known as Crazy Johnny by ranch hands. In 1884, he hit his leg with an axe while cutting wood and bled to death near a well on the property. Records showed that a well did exist beneath the store at the spot indicated by Johnny's ghost.

Learn A



Word

Demarche

\da-marsh\ n 1a: a course of action: maneuver b: a diplomatic or political initiative or maneuver *2: a petition or protest presented through diplomatic channels.

**The arrests prompted a demarche from the Chinese government.*

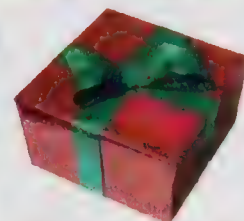
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Spot the Differences

Now you See it... now you Don't...



Can you spot the
10 differences
between these two
pictures?

Answers on
pg. 53...



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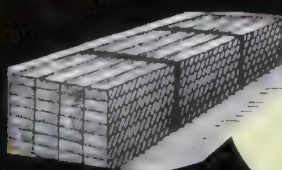


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Places For People

New Group Aims to Help People to Help Themselves, With Affordable Housing Project

It's great that so many citizens in our communities constantly help out those in other countries who are not so fortunate. Sometimes it seems to be easier to help those in far-away places; they are people most of us will never meet, after all. In third world countries, poverty is a byproduct of a lack of opportunity, and a lack of social programs aimed at helping.

On the other hand, helping those who live practically on our doorsteps is a different proposition. Here in Canada we have opportunity and social programs, yet there are many reasons why it remains difficult for some people to become successfully functioning members of the community. Many people still 'fall between the cracks,' and it's hard for them to move forward. They become stigmatized for their poverty, homelessness, or the apparent lack-of-will, to get ahead in life. Some of the people who are responsible for stigmatizing them are the very same people who give generously to overseas initiatives. Perhaps it's time to look inward towards some of our own problems.

No community is immune to poverty, but now in our county, a group of volunteers has banded together in order to meet some of the issues, head

on, by finding places for people to live; places that would otherwise be out of reach.

The organization *Places for People* (PFP) had its first annual general meeting (AGM) at the Minden United Church on November 18. I spoke to Fay Martin, who is the President of PFP.

"About 20 people attended the meeting," Fay opens. "They mostly consisted of members of the incorporation-we got incorporated in July. These people are the volunteers, and we got together in the first place not to talk, but to do something about affordable housing in the county, for people who need it."

The AGM also served to elect members to the board, and to pass bylaws. The board members are: Fay Martin President, Joanna Penfold Secretary, Adele Aspina Treasurer, Heather Reid, Bryan Kernohan, who is head of the Acquisitions Committee, Don Madole, Steve Hendriks, Fred Phipps, and Terry Hunter, the director of PFP Orillia. The local PFP is modeled on the successful Orillia program.

In a recent communiqué Fay outlines some of the crises which can put people on the brink of homelessness. "They are people who for whatever reason are one crisis away from not being able to pay the rent or the hydro or the mortgage or the taxes, and who routinely make strategic decisions regularly about which essential bill to pay down this month, leaving the others to ripen for another month. For some, this uncertainty is a transitional period in their lives. A spouse leaves and the support payments are inadequate or unreliable. A member of the family develops a medical condition that takes them off work for a time, and/or the treatment costs are not covered by OHIP or other insurance, and/or transportation to medical attention is costly and/or is far away and requires overnight stays. A vehicle needs unaffordable repairs or dies entirely and the bread-winner can't get to work. An employer re-organizes the business and reduces hours or requires shift work that can't be managed or downsizes the number of workers. A family member falls ill and needs care, and the employee has to make that a priority."

Those of you who might know Fay Martin know that she has a history in social programs aimed at helping disadvantaged people. "I pioneered an extensive housing project, about 40 units, in Toronto, in the late 80's and early 90's," Fay explains. "It was

Places for People cont'd... pg. 45...

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Places for People..

... from pg. 44

aimed at young people— around the age of 18, who were leaving child welfare care.” To this day “the houses continue to be functional, and the kids developed the social skills, and went on to become valuable members of society.” Until recently Fay was the Director of Point in Time, formerly known as Family Services.

Having the knowledge and skill to affect changes is one thing, but you also need the passion to carry forward the plan. It was a passionate and pointedly loquacious Fay that I interviewed at the Gravity Coffee House and Café in Minden, and I could tell immediately that *Places for People* is a topic that means a great deal to her. She was excited about a recent development. “At the board meeting, after the AGM, we moved to make a conditional offer on a 3 unit rental building,” she beams, beneath the temporary moustache of frothy milk deposited on upper lip by the café au lait. Not quite understanding what she meant by her statement, I asked her to elucidate. “With the help of a loan from HCDC, depending on a viable business plan, we are negotiating with the owners over the price, in order to secure a mortgage. We do have certain criteria for our buildings. They must be within walking distance from shopping, schools and medical facilities.” These specific criteria are meant to take away the additional financial burden of requiring a car to access those facilities. “We’ll know in a month or two,” Fay continues. “We need to determine what work needs to be done on the building, and we need to secure the co-operation from a local trades person in getting the best possible prices for that work.” Fay takes a sip of coffee and pauses for a moment to think on the progress PFP has made.

We’re basically becoming landlords for low-income tenants in a way, so that people who live there will get a leg-up. We’d pay for the utilities, and we’re interested in establishing a good relationship with the tenants. Having happy tenants is good business, and we have our support group to help turn them into good tenants. We select tenants who are looking to use housing stability to make a difference in their lives. If you don’t have affordable housing, it’s very difficult for instance, to go back to school” for the academic upgrading required to get a job. “It’s also difficult to parent your own kids well without the stability of proper housing.”

In what might come as a shock to many people, Fay Martin reveals that after Manitoulin, Haliburton County is the poorest in Ontario. The median household income in Haliburton County is \$35,268. Median means that half the household incomes in the county are less than this. The average value of a dwelling in Haliburton County is \$135,114. Would a family with an income of \$35,000 be able to buy a house at \$135,000? How would they amass the down payment?

I asked Fay if she would send me a possible tenant scenario. She obliged by sending the following.

Tenant Scenario 1: Jimmy Jones, youth

Jimmy is 17 and was never a good student. He and school parted ways when he was in grade 9, and since then he has been languishing in his parents’ home which is deep in the backwoods. His parents are on ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program) and will only receive funds

for him if he is in school or working. Lack of transportation (adult students don’t qualify for the school bus) makes either option unworkable. His parents are anxious for him to move out on his own, as he is a drain on their already over-stretched finances. He, too, is anxious to move out as he feels himself sinking into depression. However, he has no money to rent a place, can’t find a place to rent, and isn’t eligible for any financial support unless he can prove he has to move out of his parents’ home.

If Jimmy could move into a PFP bachelor apartment, he might qualify to receive \$536/mo for Ontario Works, of which \$342 is ear-marked for living accommodations. He might also receive further support to attend up-grading to get the education he needs to qualify for trades training, and/or position himself for work or an apprenticeship.

“A lot of the people are socially isolated, meaning they don’t have friends, mentors, and family. They have very few social relations and therefore don’t have much in the way of social skills.” PFP has a support group as yet without an official name to help tenants in the area of social skills. “It’s a volunteer friends and neighbours group,” Fay explains. “They’ll offer a visit, or to help out with making a zucchini bread, or offering a companionable ride to town. What we’re trying to do is called ‘positive modeling,’ and we may do things like pointing out to them that they should paint over, or clean up the kids graffiti, or get

into the habit of taking out the garbage regularly.”

This is all well and good, but what happens if tenants don’t comply? It’s a question that the PFP committee has already thought of, as Fay is quick to point out that “if you don’t take out the garbage for instance, we’re going to have to hire someone to do it, and it’ll come out of the trust fund. A small portion of the rent paid to PFP by the tenants, goes into a trust fund,” Fay explains. “It’s a way for them to develop some assets.”

“Maybe by early next summer we’ll have our first place up and running. We’ll develop equity in the building, and use that to get another house” she says, revealing what surely must be part of the aforementioned business plan. “We hope to qualify for some government subsidies,” she adds. “The private sector has not picked up the challenge to build low income housing, though the government is providing some incentive to builders to fix-up or renovate existing structures.”

It’s a commentary on our social dysfunction, that low income housing is not a priority for both the government and the private sector. Thank heaven for volunteers with organizations like *Places for People*, who pick up the slack. But they can’t do it alone either. It takes a great deal of networking and partnering to make such projects work, a fact that Fay Martin acknowledges. “We’ve raised over \$2000 already,” she says. “One thousand came from the Canadian Federation of university Women, \$800 from HCDC, which went towards start-up administration costs, and \$200 has come from individuals and organizations.” Fay also points out that in-kind contributions have come from various organizations. She mentions that Patient News Publishing, for instance, have printed 1000 copies of the brochure for free.

Places for People cont’d... pg. 47...



Kinmount and area Business Directory

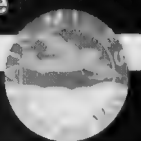
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It's Happening in Kinmount!

by Lynne Kilby

Here's an example of why I'm so proud to live in our fine community. I accidentally left my digital camera at Kinmount Community Centre and didn't realize it was missing until 6 days later. There had been countless people using the hall during that time..... Kinmount Martial Arts, Exercise Classes, Kinmount Playschool and even the Kinmount Artisan's Christmas Bazaar. Many people had the opportunity to take my camera and yet upon checking there it was sitting right at the snack bar where I left it! It is wonderfully comforting to know we have so many honest citizens in Kinmount. Thank you all very much.

Flu Clinics at Kinmount and District Health Centre will be available until the end of December on Mondays to Wednesdays between 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Thursdays between 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. You do not have to be a patient at the clinic to receive your flu shot. There is no need for an appointment if you come at the specified time. Remember to bring your health card. Call 488-1105 for more info.

Remember to call me at (705) 488-2919 or E-mail me at lynne.kilby@sympatico.ca to share news or advertise an event or activity. Special events coming up include:

Dec. 8 - **Letters to Santa, Tree Decorating, Christmas Story Time & Craft** at Kinmount Public Library, 10:30 a.m. Members of the library's Tweens & Teens Club will be assisting.

Dec. 8 - The Ladies Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion presents a **Christmas Bazaar & Craft Sale** that includes a Bake Table, Hand Crafted Gifts, Silent Auction and Light Tea, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Kinmount Legion Hall. Vendor inquiries call Liz at 286-6464

Dec. 8 - Here's something different to enjoy this holiday season. Kinmount Legion invites you to its 2nd annual **Xmas Music/Trivia Night**, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Go back in time with music & trivia. New this year is "Fill in the Lyrics." Lots of fun, prizes and surprises! Admission is free and includes a complimentary light lunch. This is an age of majority event open to the public.

Dec. 13 - Kinmount Seniors Group sponsors a bi-monthly trip to **Casino Rama** on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The bus leaves the legion parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Enjoy a free lunch while you're there. Return time is 4:00 p.m. Bus cost is \$5.00. All welcome. To reserve your spot call Theresa at 488-1119.

Dec. 13 - Preschoolers can enjoy **Christmas Story Time & Craft** at Kinmount Public Library, 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 16 - **Santa Claus Parade** 2:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Kinmount Committee for Planning & Economic Development and the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 441. Call 488-2635 for more info.

Dec. 31 - **New Year's Eve Dance** at the Royal Canadian Legion 9:00 p.m. Call 488-3462.

Sponsorship Opportunity: "Bring Back the Ice" at Kinmount Arena by donating \$60.00. It's not too late to give a gift of joy and be acknowledged on a plaque at the arena. Call 488-2372/488-3162 or mail your donation to Kinmount Agricultural Society, P.O. Box 238, Kinmount, On, K0M 2A0. All donations gratefully received.

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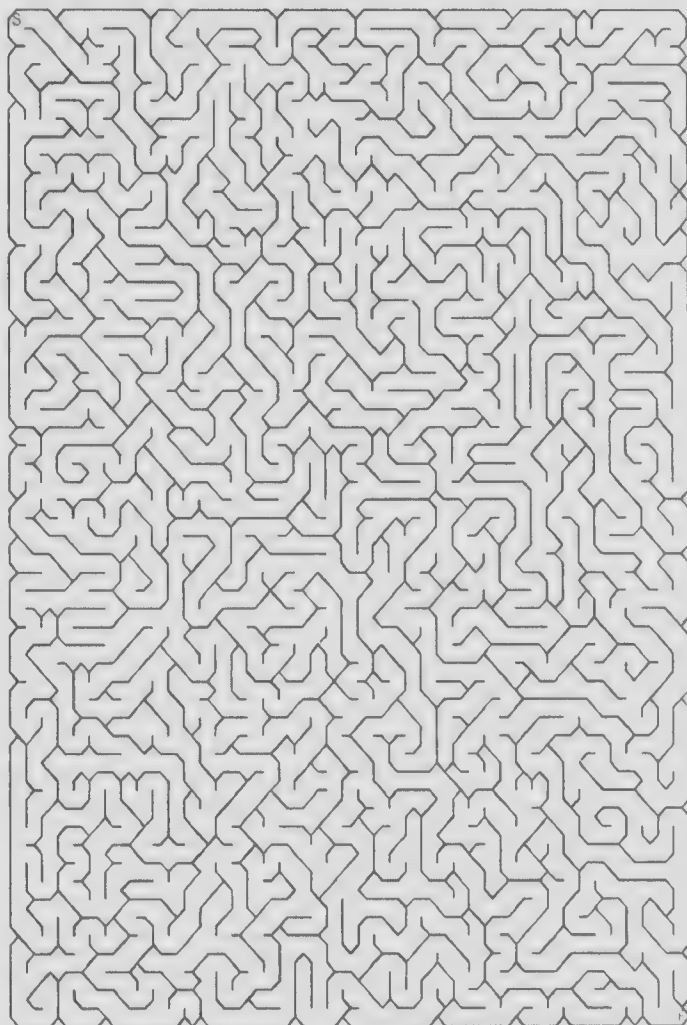
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MANDATORY CLEAR BAGS
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For a list of all recycling materials, information can be obtained from the Township of Minden Hills Administration Office, the landfill sites and on its new website www.mindenhills.ca under "What's New".

Places for People Cont'd...

... from pg. 45

Places for People is a not-for-profit, charitable organization, which means that they will be able to give receipts on donation for tax purposes. Places for people. The idea sounds like a no-brainer. Investing in our citizens? What a novel thought. Sarcasm aside, *Places for People* is a great idea for giving some of those people who have 'fallen between the cracks' another shot at becoming responsible and contributing citizens to our communities. As it's near Christmas, you might want to think about giving generously, in kind or otherwise.

If you'd like to find out more about *Places for People* you can give Fay Martin a call at 286-3668

Pic of PFP committee members

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International Family Favorites

Cookbook by Highlands Resident Helping Poor People in Honduras

By George Farrell

It must be something in the water. Residents of the Highlands have a continuing history of raising funds in order to help those less fortunate, in other parts of the world. Now we can add another story to that list.

Anne Fowler is a permanent resident of the Highlands, who lives here 6 months of the year and spends the other six months as a volunteer, developing community programs for the disadvantaged people in Honduras.

A Cookbook To Help The People Of Honduras

This summer Anne produced a cookbook with recipes from over 57 countries in order to raise funds and support for her Honduran projects. The book is titled *International Family Favorites*, and it's a collection of recipes from 57 countries around the world. Some of the 300 recipes have been "passed down by grandparents from the old country." Anne collected some recipes during her travels, and "some are completely original," she says. Others, "are simply favorites of friends and family."

The profit from the sales of this cookbook will be used to help fund The Healthy Living Education program in Honduras.



What Is The Healthy Living Education Program?

The school program, now in its 4th year, continues to grow and improve. To date over thirty thousand Kindergarten to Grade 6 children have seen the entertaining puppet skits which target eye safety, dental hygiene and promotion of healthy living habits. Performances are followed by the administration of eye acuity exams, dental fluoride treatments and distribution of toothbrushes to all the students. Children requiring glasses, or those who have an 'immediate' dental problem, are looked after regardless of the family's lack of funds. Follow-up is a crucial component of any successful education and prevention program. Future plans include visits by teams of North American dental hygienists who will clean the teeth of Honduran children participating in the school program. The development of a school library is also scheduled for 2008. The community of El Porvenir at the present time, has no library.

Women At The Well

So many social programs around the world are activated by the women in the communities. So it is in Honduras, with Women At The Well. This lively discussion group, was developed in 2006 as a part of The Healthy Living Education Program. The ladies of the community meet weekly to discuss topics which impact their lives such as abuse, self esteem, family health, nutrition and coping with aging parents. A current subject under discussion looks at the similarities, and differences in women's cultures worldwide.

Health Issues

Acceptable levels (by North American standards) of health care are non-existent for disadvantaged people in Honduras. Major medical concerns are: the high incidence and rapid increase of diabetes, HIV and blindness. Dental care for the poor usually consists of extractions only. The rate of blindness is 30% higher than in any other Latin American country. The infant mortality rate is four times higher than in North America.

Education

Schools are cramped, crowded and lacking in the proper materials for teaching and learning. Although the government says attendance is mandatory through Grade 6, the average number of years a Honduran spends in school is only 4.8.

Facts About Honduras:

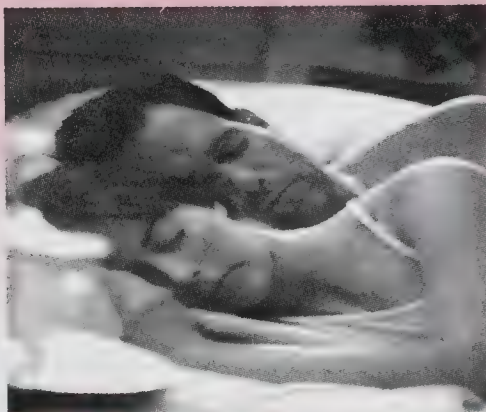
The population of Honduras is 6 million, with 50% of the population under the age of 19. The primary language is Spanish. Although Honduras has a history of military rule, it has had a stable democratic government for 30 years. Food staples are rice and beans. The main exports are coffee, bananas, shellfish and timber.

In 1998, Hurricane Mitch wiped out 75 % of crops, killed over 25,000 people and virtually destroyed the country's infrastructure. Honduras is a beautiful country with many species of endangered plants, birds and animals still found in their natural habitat.

Tourist trade is growing every year. There are many sights of interest including: the Bay Islands, with the second largest reef system in the world; the island of Utila, where Robinson Caruso was marooned; Pico Bonito Rain Forest; Famous Copan ruins, once the most

Cookbook cont'd... pg. 49...

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International Favourites cont'd...

.. from pg. 48



important center of the Mayan civilization; Lancetilla, one of the world's two largest tropical botanical gardens; The Cuero y Salado wildlife refuge center; and the colorful north coast called Garifuna, where the population consists of a mix of African and Caribbean cultures.

Where the cookbook Can Be Obtained

As it's coming up to that time of year, Anne Fowler's cookbook *International Family Recipes* would make a great Christmas present. The book can be yours for a mere \$20. Copies can be found at St George's Church

office, Under Cover Bookstore, and The Old Country House. If you have any questions, Anne can be reached at anne.fowler@sympatico.ca

Anne is once again in Honduras for the winter. In a message to Haliburton she says "I appreciate your support of this project, and hope you will enjoy using the cookbook. Buen Provecho." Anne Fowler

Pictured: Anne Fowler, Picture of location of Honduras

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Crime Flashback

by Max Haines

Innocent Beginnings

St. Thomas, Ont., is a peaceful community located south of London, just up the road from Lake Erie. But one day in the spring of 1934, guns blazed and bodies fell like a Wild West shootout.

It all started innocently enough. Fred MacTemple, 21, was wanted for stealing a bicycle. Const. Colin McGregor and Sgt. Sam McKeown were dispatched to bring in the local youth for questioning.

By chance, Det. Bert McCully of the Michigan police happened to be in the St. Thomas police station. He volunteered to give the officers a lift to 13 Queen St., where the MacTemples lived.

The street was in the rougher part of town and the MacTemples were known as tough customers.

The officers decided to take the necessary precautions. They asked McCully to cover the back door as they approached the rather rundown house. They knocked on the front door. A young boy answered.

When the officers asked to speak to Fred MacTemple, the lad was so frightened he could only point to the rear of the house.

WICKED-LOOKING .45

The two officers entered. A door opened, and there stood Fred MacTemple brandishing a wicked-looking blue-black U.S. Army issue .45-calibre automatic.

"Stick 'em up!" he shouted.

Neither officer was expecting such a move. They had felt that their young suspect might try to run out of the house at worst. Now they stared at a nervous young man waving around a dangerous weapon.

McKeown tried talking his way out of a tough jam. "Just a minute," he said. "We've got a warrant against Fred MacTemple for stealing a bicycle. Why all the gunplay?"

Peaceful Ontario community shattered by shootout

The tall young man rasped, "No cop is going to take me."

McKeown continued, "It's not that serious."

He was interrupted. "Shut that talk," Fred shouted.

From a door leading off the kitchen, 55-year-old Frank MacTemple emerged waving a revolver in each hand.

One was an ugly-looking German Luger, the other a white .38 Ivor-Johnson. He took command of the situation and shouted orders.

"Shut that talk and both of you put your guns on the table. No tricks!"

McKeown couldn't believe he was facing a total of three handguns, all over a stolen bicycle.

Once again he attempted to talk his way out of this unlikely predicament.

"You're Frank MacTemple, I take. Your son is wanted for bicycle ealing. It isn't a serious charge."

MacTemple would have none of it. e pushed a gun into McKeown's ribs id commanded, "Shut the talk and it your gun on the table. We're not ing to be taken by any damn cop."

Fred MacTemple grabbed Const. cGregor's gun.

McKeown didn't respond to the der MacTemple's orders.

McGregor warned, "Be careful, Sam, e hammer of that Luger is up."

For the third time, Frank cursed, 'ut your gun on the table or I'll let u have it."

At that precise moment, McKeown mped Fred MacTemple. Frank arted cursing and shooting.

Const. Colin McGregor took a slug

directly in his stomach and fell to the floor.

McKeown, in a desperate struggle with Fred, was shot in the wrist. He grimaced in pain as his hand went numb. Frank was still shooting.

A bullet entered Fred's neck, spinning him to the floor. MacTemple had missed McKeown and shot his own son.

Frank MacTemple, guns blazing, backed out a side door and escaped. Det. McCully raced into the house but was too late to apprehend the crazed man. McKeown managed to get off one shot, which missed.

From upstairs, Mrs. MacTemple and her young son heard the shooting.

When it stopped, she ventured downstairs and saw her son Fred lying on the kitchen floor with a bullet through his neck.

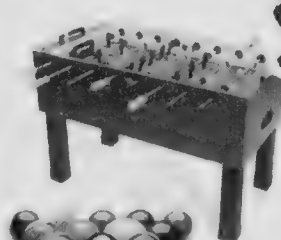
Haines cont'd... pg. 51...



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The two wounded officers and Fred MacTemple were rushed by ambulance to hospital. The day after the shooting, Const. Colin McGregor died of his wounds. Fred MacTemple lingered between life and death for some hours, but gradually recovered.

McKeown's hand was bandaged and he was released from hospital.

As soon as Fred was able to talk, police questioned him. They wanted to know what had motivated the shooting.

Fred explained that it was a grudge shooting, not particularly against McGregor, but against the police in general.

Evidently, the threat of going to reform school for the theft of the bicycle and of the older MacTemple going to jail for other minor thefts had caused father and son to flee the area.

Only after they had purchased guns in Erie, Pennsylvania, did they return, swearing that the police would never take them.

Fred explained, "Police had broken up our home, separated our family and made it impossible for Dad and me to come home."

After they procured the weapons, the MacTemples decided to chance returning to St. Thomas.

Now the hunt was on for Frank MacTemple. One of the largest manhunts ever conducted in that section of Ontario was quickly organized. Frank was spotted in several places, but the quarry always managed to elude the hunters.

On May 9, two days after the shooting, a 16-year-old farmhand, Clifford Anderson, was pitching hay from the haymow to the barn floor below.

There was a scream and out popped a dirty old man in ragged clothing.

The man implored Clifford not to tell his boss, Malcolm McNeil, that he was hiding in the haymow. Clifford, who suspected he was talking to the most wanted man in the province, was frightened out of his wits.

He was relieved when MacTemple allowed him to leave the barn to go to his supper.

Two hours later, Clifford told the McNeil family about the stranger in the barn. McNeil immediately called police.

MacTemple left the barn and stayed in nearby woods until dark. He then made his way to West Lorne, where he had a friend, Dick Carnegie, 58, who operated an antique store.

COPS REMAIN HIDDEN

Police felt the wanted man might seek refuge in his friend's sparse two-room shack. They decided to encircle Carnegie's home, but to remain hidden.

Carnegie was told to expect MacTemple. He agreed to co-operate with police and do anything in his power to apprehend the suspected killer.

About 11:30 p.m. that same night, MacTemple showed up at Carnegie's door. He claimed he had been hunting squirrels and had accidentally shot himself in the hand.

He showed Carnegie his slightly wounded hand, which he had acquired in the melee two days earlier. Carnegie washed and bandaged the wound.

About an hour after he entered the house, MacTemple jumped up. He thought he had heard a noise outside the shack. Before he could respond further, Carnegie exclaimed, "It can't be anything. I'll go out and see, though."

With that, he dashed out the door. He was met by police officers, who were in position around the house.

Carnegie confirmed, "I got him inside. What am I going to do with him? If anyone but me goes in that door, he'll shoot. He's got a gun and he's ready to use it."

The courageous man continued, "I guess I'll hafta hold him so he can't use his gun while you boys come in."

Carnegie returned indoors and offered his guest a cigarette. After the man accepted the cigarette, Carnegie threw himself upon the startled MacTemple. He yelled for help and, within seconds, it was over. Carnegie was so exhausted and excited, he fell faint to the floor.

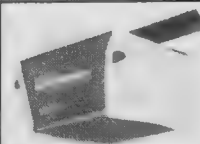
On March 26, 1935, Frank and Fred MacTemple were tried for the murder of Const. McGregor. Both were found guilty and sentenced to death.

There was a great hue and cry to save Fred's life as he hadn't actually fired the murder weapon. However, all appeals failed.

On June 27, 1935, father and son were hanged in the St. Thomas jail yard.

Photo - SHOOTING SCENE - When St. Thomas police went to the MacTemple residence to arrest a lad for stealing a bicycle in the spring of 1934, there was gunplay in the kitchen of the Queen Street home.

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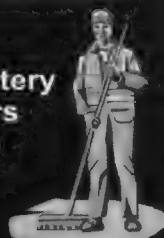
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 Extra ball on tree
 Guy has more hair
 Santa's mouth missing
 Girl is not smiling
 His pants are now black
 One blue ball now green
 Curl in her hair gone
 Fold in sack gone

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Who Dun-it?

Solution from pg. 22

The face of Woodley, the second Santa, turned almost as crimson as his coat.

"What do you mean?" he demanded.

"It's quite simple, really," said Stanwick. "You mentioned that you had taken care of your bathroom needs before putting on your suit. But no one had mentioned that the thief had gone in back to use the bathroom. The only one of you three to know that would be the thief."

"What about Williamson's missing drill?" Woodley sputtered.

"He says he gave it to his wife to put away," said Stanwick.

"That's plausible and easily verifiable. It might well have been an impulsive theft – some quick holiday cash, maybe? If you'll go with the chief now, make a full confession, and hand over the cash – in your sack, is it? – you might find the local judge in a mood of Christmas leniency."

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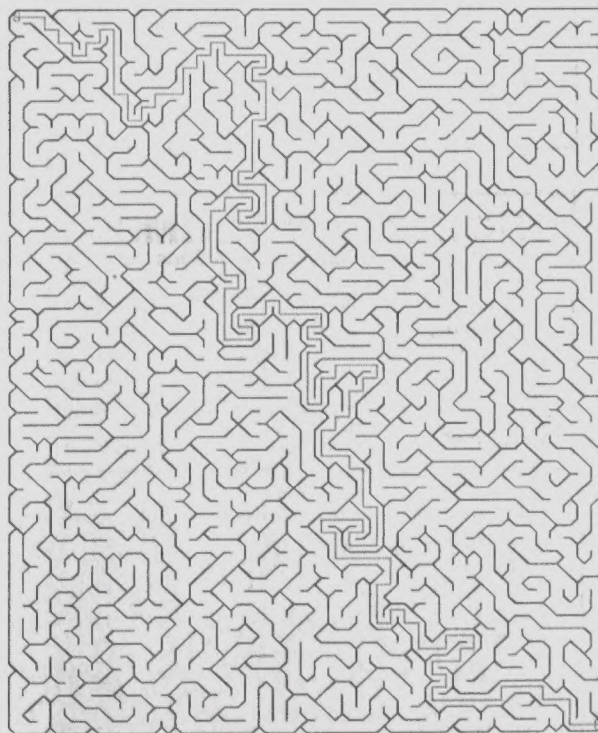
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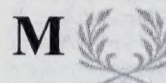


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Sams in various ads throughout the publication, so
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telephone number, and mail them, email them or fax them to the
Highlands Communicator. The first correct answer pulled from
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There were 9 sams in the last issue. They were hidden in
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Kennisis Lake (Paddy's Bay) 175 ft. frontage, beautiful sand beach, natural shore line, nature lovers retreat. 3.2 acres, level lot, driveway on property. Very easy to build on this lot saving your lots of \$\$\$\$ **\$229,000.00**



Beautiful lot with NW exposure, sunsets, granite shoreline, deep water, great swimming. 3 bedrooms, 3pc bath, den /porch, combo living room /dining. Guest cabin. Water could be put in for winter use. Lot size 176.17 per registered plan of subdivision. New driveway will be included. **\$419,000.00**



Approx. 800 ft of lakefront on Bitter Lake. 4 acres of nicely treed private property. Driveway onto the property by way of a deeded access from Bitter Lake Road. Hydro poles with telephone line (only) on the property. Many building sites on this large lot. Varied shoreline with some beautiful exposed granite and easy access to the water from many areas. Walk the deer trails through the property. **\$349,000.00**



Looking to start your own business? Check out this acre lot property in Industrial Park. Over 2200 sq. ft. building with 3 phase hydro. Building has dirt floor and is partially open so you can do with it as you please. Serviced municipal road to property. **\$99,500.00**

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www.gloriaandcindy.com**